Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministers Issue Statement Criticizing Iraq

LD1508195190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1746 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 15 (SPA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states' information ministers concluded their emergency meeting held earlier today.

The ministers issued the following press statement:

In implementing the GCC leaders' instructions, council member states' information ministers held their first extraordinary session on Wednesday 24 Muharram 1411, corresponding to 15 August 1990, in the city of Jeddah. There they studied the implications of Iraq's unjust attack on the sisterly State of Kuwait and considered the extremely dangerous situation resulting from the aggression. These constituted, and still constitute, a threat to the security and stability of the council's member states and the region in general.

After reviewing this aggression's negative results and discussing the international reactions to it, and after discussing the measures that should be taken by the GCC members' media within the context of their responsibilities and specialities in this respect during the forthcoming phase, the ministers express their utmost regret, condemnation, and denunciation of the aggression carried out by Iraq against the sisterly State of Kuwait and their total rejection of all the excuses made by Iraq regarding this aggression.

2. [no no. 1 as received] The ministers express their affirmation of all member countries' legitimate right to take all the measures they deem necessary to defend their security, safety, and stability and to preserve their interests and national resources, including cooperation and coordination with all the sister and friendly forces which are qualified to provide assistance.

3. The ministers confirm their attachment to all the resolutions issued by international organizations in this respect, in their capacity as the expression of international legitimacy, and in particular:

a. The Arab League Council resolution issued 3 August 1990.
b. Islamic foreign ministers conference statement at its 19th session issued 4 August 1990.
c. [UN] Security Council Resolution Number 660 issued 2 August 1990.
d. Security Council Resolution Number 661 issued 6 August 1990.
e. Security Council Resolution Number 662 issued 9 August 1990.
f. The extraordinary Arab summit resolution issued 10 August 1990.

4. While the ministers adhere to the aforementioned resolutions, they confirm the following:

a. To condemn Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and not to recognize the annexation of Kuwait and not to recognize any other consequences resulting from the invasion.

b. To demand from Iraq unconditional and immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and to be committed to restoring conditions as they were before the invasion.

c. To assert Kuwaiti sovereignty over its independent territory and territorial safety on the basis that Kuwait is a state member of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the GCC; and to adhere to restoring its legal regime.

d. To denounce Iraqi threats against Arabian Gulf states and in particular to denounce the massing of Iraqi forces on a massive scale along the borders with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia while at the same time to affirm the Kingdom and the GCC states' right to take whatever measures to protect their security, safety, and stability in implementing their legitimate right of self-defense which is guaranteed by all Arab and international laws, treaties, charters, and codes of practice.

At their meeting, the ministers studied Baghdad Radio broadcasts concerning Iraqi-Iranian relations. What gave rise to astonishment is the fact that Iraq has retreated in a manner which makes one wonder about Iraqi attitudes, their usefulness, and the credibility of Iraqi policy and the seriousness of its statements. The ministers also are puzzled by the real reasons which led to the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent people who died victims of this policy and the installations that have been damaged and the land that has been destroyed and the money that has been wasted and the resources of Iraq that have been burned down and the people of Iraq who have suffered and persevered and who gave plenty and who have been rendered destitute.

The GCC countries, being countries of peace, coexistence and good-neighborliness, see it as obligatory for Iraq to immediately initiate the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait, end its occupation of its (Kuwait's) territories, return the legitimacy therein, and restore the situation to what it was before the aggression.

The ministers have adopted a common information plan to face up to the requirements of this stage through which the countries of the [GCC] council is passing. It was also agreed:

1. To stop information cooperation with Iraq in all forms and types.

2. To broadcast a daily television cast to be prepared by the State of Kuwait and to be broadcast via the television networks of the council's states following the main news bulletin.

Issued in the city of Jeddah on Wednesday 24 Muharram 1411, corresponding to 15 August 1990.

'Arafat Said Declared Persona Non Grata in Gulf

TA1608062790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Jacob Wirtschafter]

[Text] Relations between the Arabian Gulf states and Yasir 'Arafat have deteriorated "beyond the point of no return" and any future financial support for the PLO will be conditional on the departure of the organization's chairman.

Arab diplomatic sources told THE JERUSALEM POST that officials from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait's government-in-exile have all declared the PLO chairman persona non grata.

"He is not welcome in any Gulf Cooperation Council country," said a Gulf diplomat posted in London.

The diplomat said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had refused to meet 'Arafat in Jeddah last week.

"After the Kreisky funeral, 'Arafat flew to Saudi Arabia expecting an audience with the king. All he got were a few icy minutes with the foreign minister."

A Kuwaiti source was careful to stress his country's continued support for the Palestinian cause while denouncing 'Arafat's support for the Iraqi invasion.

He said the government-in-exile has received reports of opposition to 'Arafat's policy within the PLO. "These individuals haven't gone public but we know many of them are convinced that the current line is a mistake."

The diplomat said that while some Palestinians collaborated with the Iraqis, others have joined the underground resistance in Kuwait City.

"Let us call a spade a spade," he said. "If the PLO is going to argue that it is against the occupation of Palestinian lands by force, it is a contradiction to turn around and support Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait."

Kuwait's embassy in Washington has received calls of support and offers of financial assistance from Palestinians living in the U.S.

When asked if Egypt and the Gulf states would now be more receptive to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue excluding the PLO, the diplomat said that while 'Arafat had become unacceptable, his organization will still be viewed as the best vehicle to represent the Palestinian position.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges EEC Action to Italian Ministers

LD1608184890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar has sent an important message to Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, and Gianni de Michelis, EEC chairman and Italian foreign minister. The message elaborated on the serious situation facing the Middle East and Gulf regions; it also explained the aims of the political move which has been and is being carried out by the Brother President Abu-'Ammar to find an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis and defuse the tension. Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar hoped, in his message, that the EEC will exert more effort to stop military confrontation in the Gulf region and endeavor to find a political solution. Brother Abu-'Ammar handed over the message to the Italian ambassador, who represents the EEC leadership, when he received him in Tunis.

'Arafat, French Envoy Discuss Current Crisis

LD1608163690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] In Tunis, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met at noon today President Francois Mitterrand's envoy [Pierre Mauroy]. The latest developments in the Gulf situation and the means to find [a way] to remove the detonator of war were discussed during the meeting.

'Arafat Receives Message From Chinese on Gulf

LD1608190190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received an urgent message from the Chinese leadership on the serious development facing the Gulf and the Middle East regions. The message was conveyed to the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar explained, during his meeting with the charge d'affaires, the aims of the PLO's political move and the need for finding an Arab political situation to the Gulf crisis and barring foreign interference there.

Palestinian Official Receives Soviet Envoy

LD1608190490 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Farug Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department, has met with the Soviet ambassador to Tunis at the PLO's offices in Tunis. They examined during the meeting the serious situation in the Arab Gulf region and the dangers facing the Arab nation following the U.S.-Western military concentration there.

Palestinians Send PLO Messages on Gulf Crisis

NC1708071890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0605 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Aug (WAKH)—Press reports here said that the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council of Fatah held an urgent meeting last night to discuss a number of memorandums from Palestinian communities in the Arab Gulf countries and a number of messages from leading figures in the occupied territories calling on the PLO to reassess its political stand on the crisis in the Gulf.

AL-ITTIHAD cites informed Palestinian sources in Tunis as saying that the Palestinian figures and communities explained in their memorandums that the Gulf states led the Arab countries in their material, moral, and media support for the Palestinian people's struggle in all its political phases and that these countries are continuing to extend this backing to the Palestinian people's intifadah in order to continue and escalate it inside the occupied territories. The backing is also being given at international forums.

The Palestinians residing in these countries also said in their memorandums that their remittances to the occupied territories have greatly helped in backing their steadfastness against the Zionist occupation.

DFLP Says Palestinians Harassed in Gulf States

JN1708092690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 90 p 20

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—An official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has announced that a number of Palestinians in the Gulf states, especially in Saudi Arabia, are being subjected to harassment and deportation, or, those who have spent their holidays abroad are being prevented from returning.

In a statement issued yesterday, the DFLP said that these measures—if confirmed—constitute a violation of traditions, Arab League regulations, and human rights; and they further aggravate the tragedy of the Palestinian people, who are either persecuted at home or dispersed abroad. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Ministry Denies Knowledge of Maghreb Gulf Plan

LD1708022490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Regarding the topic of mediation in the Gulf crisis, will a new development come from another Arab (?source). The question is posed as King Hassan II of Morocco is reported to have announced—did announce—on a French radio station his intention of proposing a plan on Monday, a Maghreb plan, thus in the name of the Maghreb Arab Union [AMU].

We contacted the Foreign Ministry tonight, and an authorized source told us that Algeria, which has been president of the AMU since last July, has no knowledge of this plan. Nor does Tunis know about the existence of this famous Maghreb plan for a settlement which Morocco wants to propose. It is highly possible that the Tunisian president had the same response from the Libyan special envoy whom he received today.

So there is a question mark: Was it necessary to speak about this plan before having consulted those in whose name one wants to present it? There was talk of divergence in the ranks in voting at the last extraordinary Arab summit. If no preliminary consultation takes place, then it seems as though there is still just as much divergence. Well, the king of Morocco says he is taking care not to break the Maghreb mirror [as heard]. [passage omitted]

FLN Organizes March Supporting Iraq

LD1508204490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Today the National Liberation Front organized a march from the Jerusalem Square in Hidra to the Iraqi Embassy to express the Algerian people's support and backing for the Iraqi people who are being besieged economically from all sides. [video shows demonstrators chanting "No to Foreign Intervention", "Victory to Saddam", and "Long Live the Heroic Iraqi People"]

Iraqi Support Committee Holds News Conference

LD1508222190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] There was barely a handful of national journalists and the Soviet representative for IZVESTIYA at the news conference by nine members of the committee created 10 August [Committee for the Support of the Iraqi People], which for the time being includes 12 public figures of the [word indistinct] political, and judicial world. Mobilization and popular vigilance with a view to applying pressure by all possible means on the Western and Arab leaders in order to find a peaceful solution to the crisis which prevails in the Middle East is the theme of this Committee for the Support of the Iraqi People. [passage omitted] Professor Abdelaziz Ziyari, who is well-known as the chairman of the Health, Labor and Social Affairs Commission of the Algerian People's Assembly, gave the main actions to be taken specifically at this moment by this Committee for the Support of the Iraqi People:

[Begin Ziyari recording] As its name indicates, it is a committee in support of the Iraqi people, because we consider that in view of the developing situation, above all the presence of foreign forces, particularly U.S. forces, in the region, the problem has moved at very great speed, and today it is the Iraqi people whose very existence is threatened. It is obvious that our support for the Iraqi people does not mean that we accept the violation of international law or that we accept a certain number of actions which are being carried out in the region by the Iraqi government. We wish to stress the non-political character of this support committee. Of course, we also stressed in our [word indistinct] statement that solutions needed to be found to the conflicts which could exist in the region between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples, but that it was above all for the leaders of these peoples and for these peoples themselves and the Arab leaders to find appropriate solutions to the problems via peaceful means [words indistinct] One does not justify the other. We are ready to support all actions, from wherver they come, which are aimed at demonstrating support for and solidarity with the Iraqi people. You must have seen in the press today that we have asked the Algerians to attend the march and demonstration which has been organized for tomorrow by the children of martyrdom [preceding word given in Arabic]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Correspondent] I imagine you are asking yourself the same question all journalists are asking themselves. In other words, is this committee a structure for support of the Iraqi people or of the Iraqi government and its current policy? The answer is given by Professor Ziyari [as heard].

[Begin recording] [Unidentified female speaker] If the aim fixed by the support committee was of unconditional support for President Saddam Husayn we would have called ourselves Committtee for Support of Saddam Husayn or Committee for Support of the Iraqi Government. We make a distinction between the people and the leaders. Our governors have not demonstrated the same attitude as the people, as is the case in Egypt, as in Morocco, and we believe that there cannot be a stable peace in this region as long as the problem of Palestine has not been solved. That is the heart of the problem. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Political Parties Criticize Gulf Situation

LD1508224790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] A statement by the Algerian National Party issued today strongly condemned the U.S. forces intervention in the Gulf region and called on the Arab and Islamic peoples to force their leaders to find a solution which secures the interest of the peoples of the region and (?embodies) the Islamic nation.

The Union of Forces for Progress strongly denounced the occupation of an Arab territory and demanded the immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from the Islamic holy places. The statement said if the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is condemned, the presence of foreign forces is unacceptable in all cases.

Diplomatic Ties with Chile Resume 13 Aug

LD1608114590 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 16 August (APS)—The Algerian Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday that "The governments of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and the Republic of Chile,

- guided by the principles included in the UN Charter and in accordance with the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations of April 18, 1961,

- desirous of promoting and developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the Algerian and Chilean people, agreed to resume diplomatic relations between the two countries at the level of ambassadors starting from August 13, 1990".

Egypt

Announcement Made of Forces Sent to Saudi Arabia

Planned To Reach 50,000

PM1708083890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "50,000 Egyptian Fighters at Saudi Command's Disposal"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—An authoritative source at the Egyptian Defense Ministry has said that a contingent of Egyptian forces dispatched to the Gulf will arrive in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this evening.

The force, he said, includes troops from the shock forces, paratroopers, and commandos who are vigorously trained on difficult missions.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the source said that these forces will be at the disposal of the Saudi Armed Forces command and will assume their tasks as of today.

He also said that other contingents will be sent according to Saudi Arabia's needs of forces from the various specializations.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia are expected to reach 50,000 fighters, some of whom will back the Saudi forces in protecting vital installations and amenities there. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, King Hassan II has described the dispatch of Moroccan forces to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the Arab umbrella as a symbolic contribution to solidarity and as "an expression of Morocco's backing for legitimacy." [passage omitted]

Informed sources in Rabat have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Moroccan forces dispatched to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exceed 1,000 soldiers. This is in addition to the equipment, whose quantity and type the sources did not specify.

Arab sources in Rabat have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there are Moroccan forces in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and they number some 5,000 men. But these were sent some years ago under a defense agreement concluded between the UAE and Morocco. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Statement

NC1708103190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—The Defense Ministry has announced that the Egyptian forces have arrived in their designated operational areas in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the tasks of the joint forces from the Arab countries in backing the kingdom's defense capabilities in implementation of the extraordinary Cairo Arab summit resolution and of the decision by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

In a statement issued today, the Defense Ministry said that these forces were carried by Egyptian transport planes under Egyptian protection.

Following is the text of the Defense Ministry statement:

Elements from the Egyptian Armed Forces have left the homeland for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance with the resolution of the Cairo Arab summit and the decision by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

These forces have arrived in their designated operational areas in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the tasks of the joint forces from other Arab countries in backing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's defense capabilities. All these forces will operate under Saudi command.

These forces have been transported by Egyptian transport planes and under Egyptian protection.

General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production; Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; and some senior officers inspected the forces, addressed them, and ascertained the morale of the men and their understanding of their tasks.

The Egyptian forces command team led by Staff Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal left with the first contingent of this force.

Reportage on Returnees From Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan

Saudi Arabia To Defray Expenses

NC1608132790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0743 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that Saudi King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has issued a royal decree instructing the Saudi Government to defray the expenses for accommodating Egyptians returning to Egypt from Kuwait via Saudi territory.

It is worth noting that directives were issued to provide all necessary facilities and assistance to Egyptians returning from Kuwait via Saudi Arabia and to treat them on equal footing with Saudi citizens.

Mass Arrests Seen in Iraq

NC1608112990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—People returning from Iraq via Jordan have affirmed that a wave of arrests involving a large number of military personnel and civilians took place in Iraq yesterday. Those arrested included dozens of officers of various ranks, especially the lower ranks, in what appeared to be the result of an attempt to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by a number of people close to him.

An eyewitness who returned from Iraq yesterday across the border with Jordan said that tanks and armored cars are constantly patrolling various parts of the Iraqi capital and taking up positions at important utilities and installations in Baghdad where an atmosphere of tension and anxiety prevails as a result of the deployment of large numbers of heavily armed soldiers at checkpoints and crossroads.

The eyewitness said that he suffered a great deal before he was able to cross the Iraqi borders into Jordan. He said he had to pass through several checkpoints and he and his colleagues were badly mistreated by Iraqi soldiers.

In another development, a Palestinian figure gave details about delivering a message to President Saddam Husayn from the Palestinian leadership. He told some people close to him that he was transported to the Iraqi president's headquarters in a car with drawn curtains amid stringent security precautions and strict guard.

The Palestinian figure said that he met with President Saddam Husayn in an underground military bunker 50 to 70 km from Baghdad.

The Palestinian figure said that he noticed that the Iraqi president was extremely exhausted, his eyes were not focusing, and he behaved and spoke nervously and incoherently.

Nationals Still Arriving

NC1508171790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has stated that 1,400 Egyptian nationals crossed the Jordanian border at various crossing points from morning until evening yesterday. Egyptian nationals continue to arrive and they are given facilities to continue their travel to Nuwaybi' port. Our embassy in Amman and our consulate in al-'Aqabah have learned that the status of the Egyptian community is very reassuring. Our embassy in Kuwait is taking care of the members of the community, assuring their welfare, and arranging travel for those who wish to leave.

Iraqi Vessel Pays Toll, Transits Suez Canal

NC1708103690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1024 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Ismailia, 17 Aug (MENA)—The Iraqi vessel Zayn al-Qaws transited the Suez Canal today after paying the scheduled toll.

The ship arrived in Port Said three days ago, and its owner refused to pay the scheduled toll of $12,000 on the pretext of his fear that his cargo would be seized in the Gulf. The Iraqi vessel is carrying consumer products.

Suez Canal Employees Voice Support For Mubarak

NC1508175190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] All the employees in the Suez Canal Authority have reiterated that they will unite behind President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and sacrifice their lives to protect navigation in the Suez Canal, without paying any attention to the vituperations of the Iraqi leaders and their empty radios.

The chairman of the General Trade Union of Maritime Transport informed President Mubarak of this today in a cable.

Ghali Comments on Iraqi Overture to Iran

NC1608180390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has commented on Iraq's offer to withdraw Iraqi troops from Iranian territory by saying that Egypt, a country that works for the establishment of peace, hopes that Iraq will take a similar step by pulling its troops out of Kuwaiti territory.

Dr. Ghali said Egypt will continue its efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict.

Syria Brokering Restoration of Ties to Iran

JN1608195590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] In the first Egyptian response to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative yesterday in which he approved the 1975 Algiers agreement, Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, asserted that Egypt hopes Iraq will take a similar step and withdraw its troops from Kuwaiti territories. Within the same context, informed Egyptian sources stressed to our radio station that Cairo is seriously thinking of restoring its diplomatic relations with Iran and improving the atmosphere of bilateral political relations following the Iraqi initiative as announced by President Saddam Husayn yesterday.

The sources stressed that Egyptian-Syrian contacts on this subject were suspended over the past few days due to the Gulf incidents. Following the meetings of the emergency Arab summit, President al-Asad had proposed to President Mubarak the need to establish good Arab relations with Iran in the interest of security in the Gulf region. The reports pointed out that President Mubarak's advisers are currently discussing the ways and means that will lead to the restoration of relations between the two sides. It has also been learned that Cairo will participate in serious talks with Iran, which are expected to be held in Damascus in the next few weeks. The talks will concentrate on the Egyptian prisoners of war in Iran. Moreover, Egyptian-Syrian contacts will be held in the next two days which will focus on an Egyptian request to provide Egypt with lists of Egyptian prisoners of war in Iran. If these talks, in which Syria will directly participate, succeed, the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be announced and direct meetings between officials from both countries will be held.

Finally, responsible Palestinian sources have denied that the PLO has dismissed its ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal for condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Talks Planned for Damascus

NC1608151190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Egyptian sources have said that President Husni Mubarak is seriously considering the resumption of diplomatic relations with Iran and the improvement of political relations between the two countries.

The sources have asserted that Egyptian contacts on this subject were suspended during the past few days because of developments in the Gulf region. During the emergency Arab summit, [Syrian President Hafiz] al-Asad emphasized to Mubarak the need to establish new Arab relations with Iran in the interest of security in the Gulf.

According to available information, President Mubarak's aides are currently studying the basis on which relations with Iran would be resumed. It has also been learned that Cairo will engage with Iran in serious talks which will probably be held in Damascus within the next few weeks.

In the next few days, Syrian-Egyptian contacts will focus on an Egyptian demand to prepare lists of Egyptian POW's being held in Iran. Should the talks, in which Syria will participate directly, be successful, an announcement will be made on the resumption of Egyptian-Iranian diplomatic relations. This will be followed by direct meetings among officials of the two countries.

Libya

Al-Qaddhafi Calls for Security Council Meeting

LD1608160190 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli Hanibal 16, JANA - Arab Maghreb Union's pool—The leader of the revolution sends an important and urgent message to Javier Perez de Cuellar the secretary general of the United Nations concerning the dangerous situation in the Gulf [word indistinct] his call for the convening of an urgent session of the U.N. Security Council in Geneva to organize the situation in the Gulf and rearrange things in accordance with the U.N. charter. The text of the letter reads as follows:

The situation in the Arab Gulf is no longer acceptable and the initiative of intercepting ships which has (?begun) yesterday in the Gulf is considered a flagrant aggression because they come from forces belonging to independent states following their military commands. No matter how the other side being worked against, whether doing wrong or wronged, (?these) measures are considered an aggression according to the international law (?and) blatant breach of the UN charter and as a result considered a war between the states which commit such action and the other [words indistinct] which is directed against.

Before the situation collapses a [words indistinct] security [word indistinct] to danger, and to prevent a [word indistinct] taking place in the Arab region to which Great Jamahiriya belongs and is part of, we see as necessary the convening of an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council in Geneva, by which resolution it can specify the forces that are allowed to be present in the Gulf and by [words indistinct] it to specify the task of such forces in detail. And starting from the issuing of such decision, those forces should wear the U.N. uniforms, carry its emblem and flag and obey the U.N. command directly which alone has the right according to the U.N. charter to specify the size of this force and the period of its stay there.

As for the situation in Saudia, if it is [words indistinct] threatens the security in the region, there is no measure except stationing Arab League forces to replace the U.S. forces in a way that insures the defence of Saudi if it became clear that it was exposed to danger, and the Security Council in this case can evaluate the situation.

The request for the council to convene comes in confirmation to your announcement which said that the U.N. alone can take the measure with regards to the embargo and all this is to implement Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

We would like to confirm clearly the falsehood of the excuse of using Article 51 of the charter in such case, because this article do [word indistinct] anything but repulsing aggression to which the territories of the state demanding the implementation of this article are subjected to [word indistinct] that the states of the Gulf were not subject to an aggression from Iraq or anyone else.

Commentary Praises Saddam's Iran Initiative

LD1608210690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Shatt al-Arab has finally been returned to Iran. Shatt al-Arab was the cause of war between the two countries. Arabstan region, which Iraq recovered during the last days of war, has also been returned to Iran. If a commitment to the 1975 agreement had been observed, this failed war would not have broken out.

Iraq's move in returning to this agreement was rendered this bitter war totally meaningless. Therefore, relations between the two countries are back to what they were before the war flared up, and are in accordance with the 1975 agreement signed in Algiers. Iran has no justification or pretext to continue any hostile stance against Iraq after having recovered Shatt al-Arab and Arabstan region, and its demands have been met. President Saddam Husayn has all the credit for this initiative.

Mauritania

Ambassador Denies Soldiers Sent to Iraq

AB1608114790 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 16 Aug 90 p 28

[By Noel Yao]

[Text] Foreign news media last week reported that Mauritanian volunteer soldiers had been dispatched to Iraq. In Abidjan, we interviewed Colonel Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the issue. Very spontaneously (and unlike many others since the Iraq-Kuwait conflict began), the Mauritanian diplomat made us understand that this is totally untrue.

[FRATERNITE MATIN] Mauritania is reported to have sent soldiers to Baghdad to help the Iraqi regime in its conflict with Kuwait. What exactly is the situation?

[Abdallah] No Mauritanian soldier or civilian has left for Iraq. Our government has at no time dreamed about sending Mauritanian soldiers or contingents to Iraq. Certainly there are demonstrations in support of the Arab cause, demonstrations by the people, because in Mauritania, like in all other Arab countries, public sentiments have been expressed about this serious crisis. These demonstrations are from the people who are responsible for their feelings. I can tell you that our country did not even agree that the civilian population be enlisted as volunteers for Iraq.

I can also assure you that even concerning the demonstrations (which mainly took place yesterday in the capital), measures were taken by the government so that no foreigners were troubled in any way. I formally deny this information which is totally unfounded.

[FRATERNITE MATIN] Did your government first adopt a position on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and then on the "total and irreversible" annexion proclaimed by Baghdad?

[Abdallah] Our country is of the view that this is an inter-Arab crisis which must first be settled through dialogue within the Arab community. Mauritania has excellent relations with the various sides in the conflict.

[FRATERNITE MATIN] So you did not condemn Iraq for invading Kuwait?

[Abdallah] We made our reservations about the Arab solution and did not condemn anyone. We consider that such condemnations do not solve any problems.

[FRATERNITE MATIN] These are all the same condemnations in principle, in regards to international law.

[Abdallah] I will give you our position. You can interpret it as you wish. As for us, we hold the view that it is a crisis which must be settled through dialogue and negotiation.

[FRATERNITE MATIN] On the contrary, you are against any force that is foreign to the Arab cause...

[Abdallah] Yes, we think this crisis must first be settled within the Arab world.

[FRATERNITE MATIN] An interpretation that has been made of this is that Mauritania might give assistance to Iraq so that Iraq will in turn help or continue to help Mauritania in her conflict with Senegal...

[Abdallah] I think this is totally unfounded. I think these are tendentious, biased statements.

Morocco

Kuwaiti Crown Prince Arrives in Rabat 15 Aug

Meets King Hassan

LD1608144190 Rabat MAP in English 1345 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 16 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Wednesday afternoon [15 Aug] at the Skhirat Royal Palace, 25 km south of Rabat, Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah who was accompanied by Minister of Trade and Industry Nasir al-Ridan and Kuwait's Ambassador to Rabat 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Salim al-Harun.

The sovereign who [words indistinct] by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid later on held a private meeting with Shaykh Sa'ad.

Shaykh Sa'ad had expressed in a statement to the media upon arrival here earlier in the afternoon 'the thanks and deep gratitude of Kuwait, its ruler, government and people to the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco for its brotherly backing to and sincere solidarity with Kuwait following the Iraqi aggression'.

As to his talks with King Hassan [words indistinct] he said [word indistinct] would cover 'the efforts exerted at the Arab summit held in Cairo last week, the will of the Islamic ummah as voiced by the ministerial conference of the organization of Islamic Conference and that of the international community laid down in Security Council Resolutions 660, 661 and 662'.

'These resolutions have all reaffirmed the [word indistinct] condemnation of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, called for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the whole Kuwaiti territory and voiced backing to the legitimate authority embodied by ruler of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah,' the Kuwaiti crown prince said.

Morocco was the first Arab country to condemn the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait.

Leaves After Visit

LD1608212290 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait heir apparent and prime minister, left Morocco today following a brief visit characterized by the audience granted to him by His Majesty the King. He was seen off at Rabat Sale airport by Prime Minister Laraki. [passage omitted]

In a statement distributed to the press, His Majesty Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Sabah expressed happiness at the audience granted to him by His Majesty the King, may God make him victorious. He said: I conveyed to His Majesty a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. I also conveyed to His Majesty the gratitude of Kuwait, the amir, government and people, and their extreme appreciation of the Kingdom of Morocco's soidarity with Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Hassan Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, Relations

PM1608142890 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Aug 90 pp 1,5

[Interview with Moroccan King Hassan II by Jacques Amalric in Skhirat—date not given]

[Text] Skhirat—[Amalric] What do you think of the Cairo summit conclusions?

[Hassan] In my view, that summit was inopportune. In view of the fact that the international community unanimously condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, I would have preferred the Arab world to make do with that condemnation and reserve judgment in case the Security Council asked the Arab League Council or some Arab country to start a dialogue on detente with Iraq.

Unfortunately, that summit was held. Ultimately, everybody is now entitled to think that the only aim of that summit was the fact that some countries would be authorized to send troops to Saudi Arabia. However, that is a mistake, because Saudi Arabia is an important and sovereign country. The Arab countries are all mature and sovereign, and it was not necessary to go through the Arab League to ask those who wanted to do so to send their troops, especially since the role of those troops can only be defensive.

Now, what exists exists, what is done is done. We cannot go back on the summit. We can only hope that the effects on Arab unity will not be irreversible.

[Amalric] Is that why you did not personally take part in that summit?

[Hassan] Morocco participated in it. But I was only informed the day before at 1700 hours. If I had been in the region, I could quickly have gone there, but since the meeting was the following day.... At all events, the Moroccan delegation did not adopt the empty chair policy.

In my view, the problem now is an inter-Arab problem which we must examine very soon, because I think that the damage has already been done. The conflicting choices which have been made are unfortunately not ideological, tactical, or strategic choices. No, they are almost personal choices.

Iraq is on Saudi Arabia's borders; King Fahd asks you whether you want to help protect him or not? These are choices to be made by individuals and are very difficult to regulate. The consequences may last a long time. Those who said yes to the Cairo resolution will look like friends of Saudi Arabia and all the Gulf countries.

Those who for entirely praiseworthy and understandable reasons said no, will pay the price of the people's verdict in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates, and Oman. This is another consequence of this summit. Let us hope for new meetings to ensure that the price paid is not too high.

[Amalric] The Cairo summit decided by 12 votes to eight to send an Arab deterrence force to Saudi Arabia. Will Morocco participate in it?

[Hassan] No official announcement has been made becausse I think that we are not obliged to publicize things when it comes to sending a limited contingent out of solidarity with the Saudi and Kuwaiti governments, to express rejection of a fait accompli and an illegal situation.

I have sent a contingent which will be symbolic, and this is not the first time that I have had problems with Iraq over Kuwait. This is consistent with the guiding line of our policy. I had only been on the throne for 18 months in 1962 when Iraq massed troops along the Kuwaiti border. I was the only one to react; the Arab world did not react; at the time there was a Bandung, Al-Nasirian trend everywhere. Despite that, I did not hesitate, I was the only one to withdraw my ambassador.

I also have another reason, subjective this time—the invasion of Kuwait reminded me of the day when my father and I were seized from the palace in the capital and a puppet leader and puppet government established in our place. I do not want to awaken the dead or to be a necrophobe, but I want my attitude to be fully understood. I am in favor of the law, and when the law is consistent with what men feel deep inside themselves, then every motivation exists. We have therefore sent a contingent to Saudi Arabia.

[Amalric] You said it was a symbolic contingent: How many men are involved?

[Hassan] Between 1,000 and 1,200. That is not enough to change the course of a battle or a confrontation.

[Amalric] How do you view the development of the conflict? In view of some statements by President Husayn, could it turn into a confrontation between the Arab masses on the one hand and the United States and Israel on the other?

[Hassan] There is no doubt that until the Israeli-Arab problem is settled, we will always be at the mercy of an Arab people's confrontation with some powers systematically supporting Israel. And unfortunately, the United States has never been so close to Israel as it now is, as it was before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. All America's friends—and I use the word advisedly—were disgusted, because although the executive, in other words President Bush, has always tried to maintain a stance midway between the Arabs and Israel, the legislature—whether because the November elections are approaching or not, I do not know—the U.S. parliament has always been sickeningly—and God knows that I am not an extremist—systematically in favor of Mr. Shamir's extreme right-wing government and against all the Arab countries irrespective of their leanings and colors.

As long as this problem lasts, the powder keg in this part of the world will remain potentially dangerous. I hope that everybody will wake up somewhat and realize that, whatever the apparent cures, while the source of infection remains there will be relapses, and resurgences of this problem until it is settled.

[Amalric] What options remain open to President Husayn?

[Hassan] If I were President Saddam Husayn—and I know that my statements will be read to him—I would think that nothing has yet been lost. The important thing for a head of state and for his government, for his people, irrespective of where or on what continent it is, is not to lose face. And that is why I say that the Arab world could have played a role between Saddam Husayn and international condemnation.

In my view, there is still time for President Saddam Husayn to give a mandate to a number of Arab countries, even among those who have taken it upon themselves to send troops to Saudi Arabia, saying to them: What is done is done, the reasons for occupying Kuwait are reasons which still exist (because, according to Saddam Husayn, Kuwait was trying to stifle Iraq—and that does not strike me as completely unjustified), but let us defuse this bomb, let us ensure that I leave Kuwait, that, in view of the past intermingling of races and of blood, we find a special status between Iraq and Kuwait, a preferential relationship, guaranteed by the Arab countries and by the Security Council.

I think that President Saddam Husayn and his advisers are intelligent enough to think up a plan which eases the tension, and which allows each side to save face. But any initiative must now come from him, in my view. He must realize one thing: He has friends who are prepared to translate any peace initiative into fact. Morocco is one of those friends and I am sure that I am not alone. However, President Husayn must help his friends by making a wise decision. He must do so.

He must also realize that a friend is not somebody who forgives you for anything. We have a proverb which says: "You friend is somebody who tells you the truth and not somebody who tells you that you are always right."

[Amalric] Given a solution of that kind, would you contemplate Amir Jabir being removed from power or is it essential for you that he return to power?

[Hassan] With regard to legitimacy, the previous situation absolutely must be restored; moreover, the Kuwaitis have never asked for Amir Jabir's departure.

[Amalric] Not even the opposition?

[Hassan] Not even them.

[Amalric] Do you plan to take a stance on the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia?

[Hassan] If it comes to defending my country, I will call on the devil.

[Amalric] What happens in a crisis of this kind? Have you had telephone conversations with President Husayn?

[Hassan] No. God knows that throughout the years of war, Morocco supported Iraq, politically more than materially. One day history—because there are secrets which it would not be a good idea to reveal now—will tell what kind of political support Morocco gave to Iraq. One day, history will tell what link Morocco provided between Iraq and some other countries, which provided support but also a very material contribution to the Iraqi Government.

President Saddam Husayn knows my attitude and my position with regard to Kuwait. He should therefore be neither surprised nor even outraged. Moreover, if anybody should be surprised and outraged it is me, because three days before the invasion of Kuwait, I received an Iraqi minister here who told me: "We will not attack Kuwait; please make them understand that a bad compromise is better than nothing." However the invasion required at least two weeks' preparation. If anybody could really have felt offended, it is me.

This means that this attitude which we have adopted toward Iraq is not simply a result of the situation, nor is it opportunist. It has been, it remains, and it will remain. But we are in favor of legality.

[Amalric] When you talk of your role as a link during the war with Iran, are you referring to the advice which you gave to the French leaders?

[Hassan] No. Let us wait a while, we will know one day. Moreover, the French leaders did not need advice from me. From the first day of the Iran-Iraq war, they understood the situation; and the hostage affairs at the start of the war and Imam Khomeyni's behavior were not likely to attract sympathy toward Iran.

[Amalric] I was referring to the fact that many Arab leaders advised France to continue its arms sales to Iraq in 1981....

[Hassan] France never had an ambiguous attitude in that sphere. It was Britain and the United States which had a strange attitude. I have hitherto been unable to decipher their charade: "We do not want Iran to win and we do not want Iraq to lose. France had a clear attitude from the start.

[Amalric] What is your reply to President Husayn's latest proposal relating to the Israeli-occupied territories and Lebanon which is controlled by Syria?

[Hassan] It is a good deal seen like that, but I think that the opponents of that proposal could point out to him that he has placed himself on the same footing as Israel because he is an occupying power. Nonetheless, five minutes of shame never killed anybody! If his proposal can produce the start of a settlement to the Israeli-Arab affair, I would say that it is welcome.

[Amalric] Do you think it is possible to change the nature of the present crisis quickly?

[Hassan] Not quickly because all the Arab countries—and they are unanimous on that—condemned the invasion of Kuwait. The problems must be clearly sorted out; and in their view that condemnation was not accompanied by any reservations after the Cairo summit. The condemnation remains. The issue on which there is not unanimity is Riyadh's appeal to some foreign troops in the Arab world. Above all, we must not confuse the problems. The Arab countries must therfore first call for a return to the status quo ante, to legitimacy, and Amir Jabir's return to power.

[Amalric] Are you therefore in favor of the return to the status quo ante taking place under the United Nations umbrella?

[Hassan] Even if I did not request it, the United Nations has already set the tone. And there has never before been such unanimity and never in UN history has Article 7 been mentioned. And never before has there been unanimity among the five superpowers.

[Amalric] Did the United States consult you before giving a positive response to the Saudi request?

[Hassan] No, not at all. And it was right, because my answer would have been this: You are independent and sovereign, Saudi Arabia is independent and sovereign; I do not know what kind of agreements you have, but it is not up to us to say yes or no. And you do not need to consult us.

[Amalric] What comment would you like to make on this first serious regional crisis since the end of the cold war?

[Hassan] There is no doubt that for years to come, this crisis will continue to be one of the preferred subjects of military schools or general staff schools. I cannot say any more than that. However, I will add that it differs from other crises in one very special aspect: in general, bankers and stock exchanges are opposed to wars. This time, the bankers and stock exchanges are in favor of this war being a rapid war which is quickly over. In my view this is the specific nature of what is happening. Bankers do not let go of their prey. When they bite, they bite.

[Amalric] Do you not think that Saddam Husayn underestimated the new international situation, in other words the absence of a socialist camp, and that he was isolated because of that?

[Hassan] I think that he underestimated Kuwait's power outside Kuwait. Kuwait's financial power is perhaps the greatest in the world. Kuwait is tiny on the map, but it is the leading financial power!

[Amalric] When Saddam Husayn questions the distribution of wealth in the Arab nation, do you understand what he is saying? Do you think that this system is fair or that it will have to be changed one day?

[Hassan] One of the few countries in the Arab world which could have produced this argument and turned it into a bone of contention is Morocco. Morocco is one of the few Arab countries which has no oil. When all the Arab countries met to establish $18, $20, or $25 per barrel, Saddam Husayn had no reason to protest, we did. We did not protest. We thought that it was better to talk to the oil-producing countries. It is true that at the Baghdad summit, Saddam Husayn thought of this issue and proposed the creation of an adjustment fund to enable the Arab countries without oil to continue their development plans.

In this connection, I would like you to know that Morocco, which is above all a law-based country, adopted that attitude alongside Kuwait in a virtuous and noble way because the greed of our Kuwaiti friends is proverbial. Morocco can bear witness to that greed more than any other country.

[Amalric] You have virtually no Kuwaiti investments?

[Hassan] We do not have a single Kuwaiti cent, we have not had a single Kuwaiti barrel of oil for years.

[Amalric] When you were receiving Iraqi oil....

[Hassan] We bought it at the normal price. Until now, Morocco did not pay a preferential price for a single barrel of oil, aside from those from the Emirates. Even in the case of Saudi Arabia, Morocco has not received any aid since 1985. That is one more reason why, when I am called upon, I reply as a disinterested friend; I do not want to be regarded as a mercenary.

To think that all the European and African countries think that I do not pay for my oil, that I am paid a certain number of millions or billions of dollars from bank to bank.... That is entirely untrue. I make my decisions without material considerations because such considerations do not exist.

[Amalric] What do you think of the positions developing on the crisis in two neighboring countries—Algeria and Tunisia?

[Hassan] I can analyze their situation or their position but I would not like there to be any confusion between interference and analysis. According to what I see and hear, there are mass movements which the Algerian and Tunisian leaders must take into account. You know that, I know it, we hear it, we read it. What is the dose? Is it a large dose or a homoepathic dose? That is their business. It is their internal policy. The only thing I want is that after causing trouble in the Arab world, this problem does not cause trouble in the Maghreb.

[Amalric] Have you had consultations in the framework of the Maghreb Union?

[Hassan] Not this time. We watched, we had no reason to consult each other because we had shouldered our responsibilities at the United Nations. We had to stop there. But this Cairo summit is likely to damage the Maghreb unless Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers, Rabat, and Nouakchott take care.

[Amalric] What if tomorrow, for instance, you have a whole series of demonstrations in Algeria against the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia?

[Hassan] That would be a matter for the Algerians, especially since they are coming up to elections. They must be allowed to sort out their affairs. Until now, everbody said that the FIS was living with Saudi money. I have always thought that that was not true. The FIS' attitude proves that either they were receiving such money and no longer want it or they were not receiving it. However, I realize that the Tunisian and Algerian governments must take account of their public opinion.

[Amalric] What do you know about the Iraqi presence in Mauritania?

[Hassan] The Iraqi presence in Mauritania is not new. For years I have wondered what the Mauritanians, living thousands of kilometers from Iraq, found attractive about the Ba'th philosophy. Ba'thist philosophy cannot be exported. Since then, I have thought that Mauritania has received some military aid from Iraq. I want that to stop. But there is undoubtedly Iraqi activity in Nouakchott. Like everywhere else, Nouakchott is free and sovereign, but I would like our Maghreb framework to remain homogeneous and for the bilateral relations which each of us may have with other countries not to impinge on the Maghreb framework.

[Amalric] Do you think that it is reasonable to allow Iraq, which is already a chemical power, to become a nuclear power?

[Hassan] This brings us back to the start of our interview. This is where I say that the U.S. legislators show shocking partiality. India and Pakistan have bombs, why is nothing said to them? The Israelis have their bomb and they have not yet signed the nonproliferation treaty. They are not part of the Vienna club. So, everything is permitted, everything is allowed for some people and everything is forbidden to others.

This is what is sickening. If some people have nuclear bombs, why should others be left unarmed? If Iraq wants to make nuclear bombs when it is faced with somebody who has 200 nuclear warheads, I think it is more that entitled to do so. Either everybody is prohibited or everybody is allowed to do what they want, but it is impossible to have double standards. I would even say that this is detrimental to our Arab pride. Everybody can have their little bomb, except the Arabs.

Sudan

Popular Forces Protest 'Foreign Intervention'

EA1208211090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] The Sudanese popular organization to render the Muslim and Arab nation victorious has issued the following statement:

The various popular sections of the Sudanese people have been following events in the Arabian Gulf ever since the dispute between the brothers arose. Whereas they had been looking with hope in the direction of the leaders of the Arab nation to contain the situation and curb its escalation, just as the Sudanese popular leaderships were calling for the matter to be resolved within the Arab framework to prevent the forces of U.S. imperialism and international zionism from gaining an opportunity, the foreign forces nevertheless strengthened their grip by deploying their fleets and armed forces within the Arab and Islamic territories.

Then came the recent Arab summit, on which the Islamic and Arab peoples had pinned their hopes on a means of bringing the situation under control within the Arab family. Regrettably, however, the summit adopted resolutions which we believe were dictated to it by the forces of international wickedness and tyranny, whose chief objectives have always been the exploitation of the resources of the Arab and Muslim nations, [word indistinct] their (?existence), (?trampling on) their civilization and upholding their foster child, Israel.

We, on behalf of the Sudanese popular forces as represented by the Sudanese popular organization to render the Muslim and Arab nation victorious, strongly condemn the tyrannical U.S. military intervention which has been unleashed upon the land of the two holy places and call for its immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the holy Arab territory. We also declare our support for the fraternal Iraqi people against the foreign intervention. We stand with them in the same trench to defend Arab honor and the things sacred to the Muslim nation. We are wholeheartedly prepared immediately to enroll in the single Arab army and share the hardships of our brothers. We do not fear the economic blockade imposed by [words indistinct]. We [words indistinct] the united Arab peoples to condemn the foreign intervention and to insist on having the issue resolved by the Arabs.

In the name of the Sudanese popular organization to render the Muslim and Arab nation victorious, which represents the popular committees, the general trade unions, the general union of Sudanese students, we call upon the Sudanese masses to mount a popular demonstration to condemn the foreign intervention tomorrow, monday. We also call on the Sudanese masses to support the cause of the Arab (?cause) until the Arab nation resolves this dilemma.

Long live the one united Arab nation against all foreign intervention. God is great. Glory to Sudan.

Al-Bashir Meets Saudi Envoy on Gulf Crisis

EA1608100690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] This evening, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, met in his office at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers His Excellency Muhammad Sabri, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with whom he discussed bilateral relations and developments in the region in the context of the situation [words indistinct] which requires the reinforcement of Arab solidarity and an endeavor to reduce the acuteness of disagreement and rejection of the (?intensification) of the crisis [words indistinct].

Iraqi Envoy Praises Stance on Gulf

EA1608121490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16th August (SUNA)—Iraqi ambassador to Khartoum, Tariq Muhammad Yahya, has described Sudan's stance towards the Gulf crisis as serious and aware of the nature of the imperialist danger in the Arab arena. In an interview with the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" of today, Yahya said that the initiative of President Saddam Husayn had clearly disclosed the imperialist and Zionist planning which targets Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations, indicating that this initiative had naked the Arabs of America. [sentence as received]

'Heavy Fighting' Around Juba, Casualties High

EA1308174690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Heavy fighting continues around Juba and Bashir's forces suffer heavy casualties [martial music]. On 4 August 1990, the junta sent a large convoy code-named Abtal al-Juba [heroes of Juba] from Juba in a futile attempt to rescue the besieged garrison of Yei. The convoy fell into a deliberate ambush on 8 August 1990 by Bright Star campaign forces of Phase One at Jebel Bungu, 30 miles from Juba, and the enemy sustained very heavy casualties in men and material. The enemy suffered 51 killed, including a first lieutenant, and 86 wounded. The tanks, one T-62 and T-55, were completely destroyed. [martial music]

The enemy sent a second convoy which they code-named Abtal al-Hadid [heroes of steel] to rescue the first convoy and it, too, was ambushed and sustained very heavy casualties before reaching the first convoy, suffering 31 killed, including First Lieutenant Hatim Hamid Abdallah, and very many wounded. Some soldiers fled back to Juba. One T-62 tank and one truck loaded with guns were totally destroyed by Bright Star campaign military

engineers near Jebel Kujur. The truck was taking guns to Yei for armament of rebels of a neighboring country. [martial music]

Juba has organized and sent a third convoy code-named Najdat al-Abtal [succour for the heroed] to rescue the first two convoys. This convoy was meant to go to Terakeka but had to be diverted to Yei road. SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the Bright Star campaign, Phase One, are fully prepared to destroy remnants of the three convoys—total annihilation.

Former Minister To Oversee Libya Integration

EA1608120990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16th August (SUNA)—Former commerce, cooperation and supply minister, Dr. Faruq al-Bushra, has been nominated as secretary-general for integration between Sudan and Libya, the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" published today said. The daily explained that the decision was taken in accordance with an agreement stipulating that the secretary-general should be from Sudan and the headquarters for integration general secretariat be in Libya.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives Special Envoys

Iraqi Envoy Arrives 15 Aug

JN1608072290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 15 Aug (INA)—Dr. Mundhir Ibrahim, envoy of his excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and minister of higher education and scientific research, arrived here today.

Mundhir Ibrahim will convey a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on bilateral ties and the latest regional developments.

Iraqi Envoy Received

LD1708083490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday evening received Dr. Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi, minister of higher education and scientific research in the Iraqi Government and the special envoy of President Saddam Husayn to the president of the republic. The audience dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Mitterrand Envoy Arrives 16 Aug

LD1608131690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpts] This morning at the Carthage Palace, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Pierre Mauroy, first secretary of the French Socialist Party and special envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand to the head of state. [passage omitted]

After the discussions, Pierre Mauroy made a statement in which he said, in particular, that he had been dispatched by the French president to explain France's policy toward the conflict in the Gulf. He said this policy is based on the firm condemnation of the aggression and solidarity with the Arab states to that, first and foremost, they could resolve this conflict at the level of the United Nations, which could rise up to the occasion in respect of this conflict.

The French envoy pointed out that the meeting reaffirmed the excellent relations between Tunisia and France. He said he informed the president of the satisfaction of President Mitterrand with these relations and his determination to continue strengthening them.

We have learned that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed Tunisia's stance toward the Gulf crisis, which is based on our country's commitment to international legality and the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the League of Arab States. The head of state also said Tunisia had always called for the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means, and that it had called for the containment of the Gulf crisis within an independent Arab framework.

Libyan Official Brings Message

LD1608202490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali of sisterly Tunisia received this evening the brother secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

The brother secretary of the bureau conveyed a message from the brother leader of the revolution to President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali related to the situation in the Arab region and the Gulf region in particular.

The audience was attended by the general delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah in Tunis.

Bahrain

UK Minister Clark Arrives in Manama 16 Aug

NC1608183490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1640 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 16 Aug (WAKH)—Alan Clark, UK minister of state for defense procurement, arrived in Manama tonight with a delegation on a visit to Bahrain. The visit is part of a regional tour by the UK minister. During the visit, Clark will hold talks on the current developments in the region.

Delivers Thatcher Message

NC1708091790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 17 Aug (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received a message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on current developments in the region and bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Alan Clark, UK minister of state for defense procurement, during his audience with his highness the amir in Manama this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Defense Minister Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Khalifah, Chief of Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, and UK Ambassador John Alan Shepherd.

Kuwait

Resistance Officer Says Six Iraqi Tanks Surrender

JN1608200290 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Aug 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Hafr al-Batin, AL-YAWM Mission; Capitals, Agencies—A Kuwaiti army officer taking part in leading the popular resistance declared that six Iraqi tanks with their full crewmen surrendered to the Kuwaiti popular resistance with their combat weapons near the Kuwaiti neutral zone last night. The officer, a colonel in the Kuwaiti Army, said that an Iraqi military truck was destroyed in the Hawalli area the day before yesterday.

He also affirmed that the popular resistance is cooperating with Kuwaiti Army officers to better organize its forces in order to inflict grave losses on the invading Iraqi Army. He indicated that many resistance personnel show high combat spirit, something which places them on the right path toward liberating their homeland, Kuwait.

AL-YAWM has also learned from a popular resistance member taking part in combat activities in Kuwait that the resistance has captured 15 Iraqi soldiers and officers, including a Presidential Guard Corps staff colonel. [passage omitted]

New Curfew Hours Observed in Three Cities

JN1708102590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—The Presidential Office today issued an order according to which the curfew in the cities of Kuwait, al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi], and al-Jahrah shall be observed from 2300 to 0600.

Royal Family Member Interviewed by Israel Radio

TA1608120290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Telephone interview in English with Ahmad Yusuf al-Sabah, "a member of the Kuwaiti royal family," at the Bahrain Sheraton Hotel, by Gil Litman—recorded on 15 August; interview in English]

[Text] [Litman, in Hebrew] The man on the other end of the line represented himself as Ahmad Yusuf al-Sabah and as a member of the Kuwaiti royal family.

[al-Sabah] This is Ahmad Yusuf al-Sabah, one of the royal family in Kuwait.

[Litman] When did you come to Bahrain?

[al-Sabah] We came yesterday.

[Litman] Was it easy to pass the border?

[al-Sabah] It wasn't easy because we didn't come from the main port. We came from the desert.

[Litman] What happened in Kuwait?

[al-Sabah] We woke up in the morning, we hear a lot of noises in the morning. After we wake up in the morning, we see a lot of aircraft and a lot of troops in all the streets of Kuwait, and really we wasn't know what's happening. The Iraqis they came to the houses and they took everything from the houses: money, we have some gold, tv, radio, everything. If there is any empty house, they came and they put families from Iraq. The Iraqis are now everywhere in Kuwait. They raped the ladies. You know there is nothing now in Kuwait, they took everything from Kuwait, they took to Iraq. [passage as heard]

[Litman translates and continues in Hebrew] Al-Sabah tells us something else interesting.

[al-Sabah] They think they are in Israel. The Iraqi Government told them that they are attacking Israel not Kuwait. All of them, some young people, they say that the Iraqi Government does tell them that they are just on an exercise in Kuwait, they are not attacking Kuwait.

[Litman, in Hebrew] At the conclusion of the conversation, the prince reiterated that he knows he is speaking

with an Israeli. He also said that he, his family, and the Kuwaiti people are waiting to see what the Americans will do to uproot the Iraqi aggression.

Saudi Arabia

Minister Says Customers To Get Full Oil Share

LD1608182690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1738 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, 16 August, SPA—In a statement to SPA today Hisham Nazir, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will supply its customers with their full usual share and that it will not reduce these shares; the media recently reported that there would be a reduction of 17 percent.

He added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, together with other OPEC member countries, has called for an immediate meeting of member countries to take a united decision on dealing with the current state of the petroleum market.

Ministry Addresses Foreigners in Kingdom

LD1608201490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The following communique was issued by the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, to all the brothers residing in the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from the sons of Arab, Islamic, and other friendly peoples, we address our thanks and consideration for all the joint efforts they have contributed and will contribute with the citizens of the Kingdom in the various fields of industrial, agricultural, health, scientific, economic, and developmental fields during the past years and the years to come, God willing, of development and prosperity in the various fields.

The Ministry of Interior, while expressing its best feelings toward all the workers in the various governmental and national sectors, wishes to stress the eagerness of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, in everything in which lies the security and safety of residents and workers in this generous and hospitable country characterized by tolerance and love, as well as by doing good for all the brothers and sincere and constructive cooperation with friends. No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another, and the Arab or the foreigner we host among us is not made answerable or treated with negative stances which his state or government might have adopted toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Ministry of Interior wishes also to announce to all the eagerness of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the beloved King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, to continue to provide an atmosphere of safety and stability with more good and prosperity for every citizen and resident. We will never be lenient in punishing those who spread lies and create doubts, who spread false rumors at the internal level unaware of the attempts at conspiracies and sedition between the Arab and Islamic peoples, and conseqeuntly between the friendly peoples, plotted by some hateful hired media, whenever they are given the chance to fish in troubled waters. We hope that everybody will multiply their efforts in carrying out their duties and missions, and God is the one who ensures success.

Paper Reminds Saddam of Past Saudi Aid to Iraq

PM1708085090 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 13 Aug 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Hulegu Between Calamity And Defeat"]

[Text] Kuwait's black Thursday will remain a brand of shame in the history of the Iraqi leadership, which the Arab Gulf supported for eight long years with money, political backing, and arms in its battles with Iran.

The calamity which befell the Arab nation at dawn on that bloody Thursday—when tanks, half-tracks, and aircraft invaded a tranquil peaceful country which had always been a refuge for all Arabs—will always be a bleeding wound in the heart of the Arab nation confirming that treason is a sword that destroys bonds and kinfolk.

Kuwait's black Thursday unmasked Baghdad's Hulegu [13th century Mongol conqueror], who has broken promises and charters and trampled on the Iraqi fighters' oath that they would defend the Arab homeland and existence.

Let us for a moment ponder the dimensions of this catastrophe which has shaken and bloodied the Arab world and the perils of what happened. By occupying Kuwait, Saddam Husayn has legitimized Israel's aggression against and annexation of Arab territory and has given Israel a certificate of innocence. By marching under cover of darkness to annex an independent sovereign country—killing and terrorizing innocent, peaceful, and unarmed women and children and crushing people alive under their tanks—Baghdad's armies have, as the 21st century approaches, imposed tutelage and, in the logic of tanks, have wiped out charters, pledges, and borders and, with an abnormal Hulegunian will, written off sovereignty rights and universal order and organizations. More than an ugly phenomenon and defeat will, therefore, loom on the Arab horizon if the Arabs do not join hands, condemn the aggression, and stop the colonization.

Recent history is full of relevant facts . Kuwait, the peaceful country, supported, supplied, and aided Iraq and was more than once the target of Iranian missiles and its shores and tankers the target of aggression.

Has Saddam forgotten the part played by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] when he was engaged in his battles and wars?

If he has forgotten, then let us remind him. Saudi Arabia was the state which shared with him the food, livelihood, and money of its own people.

If he has forgotten, then let us remind him how we turned our shores into ports to receive aid for Iraq which we paid for through the sweat of our sons and from our own treasury. We saw support for Iraq and its steadfastness as support for the Arab nation, as confirmation of the truth, and as defense of Arab existence.

Many wise and well-informed brothers in Iraq and elsewhere urged us not to trust that man because he knows no values, acknowledges no stance, and only hears the voice of his own arrogance, ambitions, and dreams.

The minds of Arab generations are now storing many facts about the tragedy of this crime which will serve as lessons and examples of the man's defeat in a moment of loss, confusion, conceit, and loss of the simplest rules of moral and human conduct.

The generations will remember how Saudi Arabia had built a security belt that protected Iraq for eight years and saved him from crushing defeat with continuous day-to-day support.

Has the Hulegu of Baghdad and butcher of Tikrit forgotten what we have done for the brothers in Iraq?

United Arab Emirates

Central Bank Approves Current Exchange Rates

NC1508160190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1152 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Aug (WAKH)—The Central Bank in the United Arab Emirates has instructed all money changers in the state to accept dealings in Gulf country currencies at the normal exchange rates. This applies to the Omani rial, the Saudi rial, the Bahraini dinar, and the Qatari rial.

In a circular today, the Central Bank stressed to all currency exchange shops that they should notify the bank by express messages of their commitment to these instructions no later than tomorrow, Thursday, at noon. The bank warned that the licenses of money changers who violate these instructions will be suspended and that their shops will be closed until further notice.

The bank also instructed money changers to continue dealing with customers at the normal rates for all currencies, since the bank has not changed the dollar exchange rate vis-a-vis the dirham.

Yemen

Salih Receives Saddam Message, Responds

JN1608133290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received in his office this morning brother Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, Iraqi labor and social affairs minister. The Iraqi minister conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn expressing the appreciation of the Iraqi leadership and people for the efforts of our country on various Arab and international levels to contain the crisis and resolve it within the Arab family context so as not to give a chance to direct foreign intervention in Arab affairs.

The brother president gave the minister a message in reply to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, which asserts that our country will continue its efforts at various levels in order to contain this serious crisis and resolve it peacefully to avert the dangers entailed in this crisis as a result of the foreign presence and military buildup in the region.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-Rahman Dhiban, labor and vocational training minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

President Salih Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

JN1608185490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has affirmed that the Republic of Yemen views the foreign presence in the Arab region as a threat to pan-Arab sovereignty, security, and independence. The Republic of Yemen also believes, the brother president added, that there is no justification for this foreign presence in the region, since the problem is an Arab one; therefore, the solution cannot be but an Arab one.

In a press interview published by the [name of newspaper indistinct] yesterday, the brother president added: If these foreign military forces deal a blow to Iraq, this blow will be felt by the entire region and any spark will lead to a disaster on the Arab homeland and on security, peace, and stability in the entire world. He also added that if it takes place, the disaster will spare no one, because its impact will not be exclusive to the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf, but will extend to the entire Arab homeland and probably the whole world [words indistinct] and to safeguard its sovereignty and independence, which is a legitimate right. The brother president also said that the Republic of Yemen has coordinated with all Arab parties to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis since the first moments of its inception and until the summit convened. However, he added, the Republic of Yemen

has not coordinated [word indistinct] the points contained in the draft resolution and has not even participated in preparing for it.

The brother president added: Had the efforts of our country—along with the brothers, in this regard before the summit convened—been given a chance to continue, they would probably have resulted in satisfactory results at the summit, because this summit, which the Arab nation anticipated with great hope, was supposed to come out with positive results to contain the crisis. However, and we greatly regret this, the summit resolutions were [word indistinct], which led to its failure.

Asked about the future and possible developments of the crisis as envisaged by the Republic of Yemen, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council said: Inasmuch as we are worried over foreign presence in the region—which might reflect on the security, stability, independence, and sovereignty in our Arab region—we are optimistic that the crisis will be resolved within the Arab family and within the efforts which will continue among the brothers. Certainly, the president added, the convocation of the extraordinary Cairo summit will not be the last of these efforts.

The brother president added: The foreign presence has not come by coincidence but came at the request of a monarch of the brothers, who attended this summit. And, if this is a concrete reality, then how could we imagine that the summit resolutions will tackle the pouring of foreign forces into the Arab region. He added: The opinions which opposed this [words indistinct] on the draft resolution, as compared with the opinions which voted for the draft resolution.

Asked about the Yemeni position and the role that could be assumed by the Republic of Yemen following the failure of the Arab summit in Cairo, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: I believe the solution of the crisis lies in two points:

1. (?Expelling) foreign forces from Arab territories, withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and replacing these with Arab forces.

2. Setting up a committee of Arab leaders to discuss the problem in all its aspects and find out the reasons which led to the entry of Iraqi forces into Kuwait; and consequently, discovering the reasons which led to the presence of foreign forces on Arab lands, so that (?peace and stability) could be restored.

Our country, the president added, thinks the above mentioned represents the best solution to contain the crisis, if there is any intention to resolve it.

The brother president asserted that our country's relationship with all countries is not based or determined on material interests, and that this relationship emanates from constant, principled stands based on clear foundations and according to historical, pan-Arab and national factors. He also said that funds can not be at any time a criterion, [words indistinct] any position in this light.

Asked about the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] after the (?emergence) of the Arab campaign, the brother president explained that focus is now being placed on the entire Arab nation, and not only on the ACC. The ACC, however, will continue to exercise its activities and tasks in light of the foundation agreement and other agreements which were endorsed.

Asked about the demonstrations witnessed in the historical capital, in support of the fraternal Iraqi position, the brother president said: These demonstrations do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the state. The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen allows staging demonstrations and all professional and mass organizations and parties to express their opinion on any event, and this is an understandable right. He added that we are a democratic country, embracing political pluralism and, therefore, we cannot prevent any peaceful demonstration. However, the president added, we can prevent rioting. So, if these demonstrations turn into riots, the security apparatus will then intervene. He added: These demonstrations have negative and positive aspects. We admit that their positive aspects are [word indistinct] because those who do not believe in democracy are trying to abort any experiment of this kind, through giving justifications and pretexts on which they formulate stands against the will of the people. [words indistinct] in order to exercise democracy.

Salih Briefs Advisory Council on Crisis Efforts

JN1708101590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, chaired a meeting today of the Advisory Council.

After welcoming the Council members to their second session, the brother Presidential Council chairman briefed them on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region and also on the contacts and moves made by the Yemeni leadership on the Arab and international scenes to contain the crisis and resolve it peacefully and within an Arab context.

The brother Presidential Council chairman informed the Council members of the outcome of the French envoy's visit to our country and of the opinions and proposals that he conveyed. He briefed the Council members on the views the Yemeni leadership asked him to convey to French President Francois Mitterrand on the regional crisis and the ways that the world must pursue to resolve the crisis. He also told the Council members about the continuing contacts with the Iraqi leadership, the last of which was held on the arrival of an Iraqi envoy and at the reception accorded to him by the brother Presidential Council chairman this morning.

After conducting a comprehensive review of overall developments and after opinions were expressed on the issue, the Council highly praised the Presidential Council's efforts since the outbreak of the crisis. The Council also praised the efforts made by the Council of Representatives and the Council of Ministers and all well-intentioned efforts to contain the crisis and to resolve it peacefully. He underscored the need for our country to continue to try to create a peaceful atmosphere and to spare the country the dangers of an explosion. He praised the Iraqi peace initiatives to achieve this objective.

Mass Demonstrations Held Against U.S. Presence

JN1708090490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[From the "News reports" program]

[Text] The capital Sanaa and the economic and trade capital Aden, in addition to other major cities in the Republic's governorates, saw mass demonstrations and marches today condemning foreign intervention in the Arab region. Meanwhile, mass organizations, trade unions, and political parties and organizations in our country issued a statement on this intervention. Similarly, a number of Arab capitals were the scene of protest marches condemning foreign intervention in the Arab region. Details are contained in the following report:

Mass organizations, trade unions, and political parties and organizations in our country issued a statement today on the regional situation and the dangers posed to regional security, stability, sovereignty, and independence by foreign presence in Arab waters and on Arab lands. The statement said that the Arab nation is facing, under these precarious circumstances, one of the most dangerous and fierce imperialist foreign conspiracies in its contemporary history, and which aims to undermine the sovereignty and independence of the Arab peoples, to jeopardize its pan-Arab identity, to abort its gains and resources, and to return it once again to the era of the old form of colonial domination, which is the ugliest, most flagrant and oppressive form of domination.

The statement said that the massing of foreign fleets and foreign military troops in Arab waters and on Arab lands under the pretext of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis has unveiled a full-fledged imperialist plan that is not concerned with the interests of Iraq, Kuwait, or any other Arab state as much as it is concerned first and foremost with imposing imperialist hegemony on the region, with controlling its wealth and resources, and with humiliating and dominating its peoples.

The nationalist parties and organizations and mass bodies condemned in their statement the foreign imperialist intervention in the region and called for the immediate withdrawal of these troops. They condemned all forms of force to resolve disputes among the region's states. They added that the recent Iraqi proposals are comprehensive. They said these proposals can ensure the relaxation of tension in the entire Arab region and guarantee the sovereignty and independence of its peoples. They expressed support for the steadfastness of fraternal Iraq in its confrontation of foreign pressures and schemes to harm Iraq, the Iraqi people, and the entire Arab nation. They also expressed support and backing for the positions of the Yemeni political leadership and for its efforts to contain the Iraq-Kuwait crisis through peaceful means and within an Arab context and also to prevent foreign interference in the region's affairs, regardless of the pretexts.

The statement called for mobilizing the Arab people's resources and capabilities, for securing democratic freedoms for them, and for cultivating pan-Arab sentiments to guarantee the failure of enemy schemes and to help achieve the Arab nation's objectives of democracy, unity, and progress.

The statement also urged all Arab peoples to involve the man on the street and to hold conferences for popular and political organizations on the pan-Arab and national levels to confront the hostile foreign schemes. Moreover, the statement expressed support and backing for the valiant intifadah staged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement issued by the political and mass organizations underscored that the Yemeni people, who forged the 26 September and 14 October revolutions, achieved the unity of the Yemeni homeland—a step on the road of attaining a comprehensive unity—and who have withstood difficult tests, are capable today of making effective contributions, along with all other Arab peoples, to safeguard pan-Arab sovereignty and the sovereignty of all peoples of the region.

The statement announced the decision of the political and mass organizations to form special committees in all governorates to enlighten the masses politically and to organize various functions of popular solidarity and voluntary work to confront and thwart imperialist schemes in the region.

In the capital Sanaa, the economic capital Aden, and in major cities in various governorates of the Republic today there were sweeping popular demonstrations and marches in which tens of thousands of religious scholars, workers, peasants, students, merchants, and youths participated. All these people poured into the cities from districts and subdistricts of the governorates. The masses took to the streets repeating chants and raising placards condemning the presence of foreign fleets in Arab waters and foreign troops on Arab lands and demanding their immediate withdrawal and that inter-Arab problems be left for the Arabs to solve. The human waves of demonstrators, led by leaders of mass bodies, popular organizations, and trade unions chanted slogans expressing total support and firm backing for the efforts made by the Yemeni political leadership, for its responsible positions, and also for its persistent efforts to contain the crisis, to resolve it within an Arab context, and to spare

the region the serious threats posed to pan-Arab security and to the Islamic holy sites by foreign presence on Arab lands and in Arab waters.

The demonstrators condemned any collusion that might allow this military presence to stay or to prolong its presence on our Arab lands and in our Arab waters. They expressed their strong support for the Iraqi people and leadership in confronting the foreign presence. They paid tribute to the peace initiative launched by Iraq to resolve the region's issues and problems, considering this initiative as a peaceful and logical way out acceptable to all Arab and Islamic masses for ending all causes of tension in the Middle East and that it would ensure the restoration of rights to their true owners. They said that, if left unresolved, these issues would continue to jeopardize world security and peace.

The masses taking part in the demonstrations in the capital Sanaa headed for the premises of the U.S. Embassy in the capital, where chants asking U.S. President George Bush to withdraw U.S. fleets and troops from Arab waters and lands resounded. The demonstrators asked President Bush in their chants to leave inter-Arab problems for Arabs to resolve. The representatives of trade unions, mass organizations, and political parties and organizations handed the embassy a message addressed to U.S. President George Bush condemning foreign intervention and military presence in Arab waters and on Arab lands. The message addressed by the Yemeni mass organizations, popular sectors, and political parties and organizations also demanded that U.S. President George Bush immediately withdraw U.S. and foreign fleets from Arab lands and waters. Further, they demanded that inter-Arab problems be left for Arabs to resolve. The message also contained the text of the statement issued by these organizations, parties, and factions.

Council Welcomes Iraq's 'Good Gesture'

JN1608105890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] In a meeting last night under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and with the attendance of the Council of Representatives speaker, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, the Presidential Council reviewed the developments in the region and the latest events, including our country's continuing efforts to contain the crisis and curb the deterioration of the situation as a result of foreign military intervention. The Council paused before the contacts that the brother president had held with his Arab brothers, including the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of 'Oman, and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, and his meeting with the envoy of French President Francois Miterrand.

The Council also paused before the positive development that emerged toward the improvement of relations between Iraq and Iran and the resolution of their conflict in a manner that safeguards the legitimate rights of the two neighboring countries. While welcoming the settlement of the dispute, which has cost the two countries a destructive war over the past eight years, the Council considers this to be a good gesture toward resolving the current differences in the Arab Gulf and the Middle East.

Salih Receives PRC Message on Gulf Crisis

JN1708100690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his office this evening Lin Zhen, the PRC ambassador accredited to our country, who relayed to him during the meeting a reply message from the PRC leadership on regional developments and our country's efforts to contain the crisis.

Saddam's 'Open Letter' to Bush Highly Critical

JN1608163890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1504 GMT 16 Aug 90

["Text of open letter" from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to U.S. President George Bush, dated 16 August, in response to Bush's 15 August remarks at the Pentagon—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: An open letter to the President of the United States.

I have heard your feverish utterances and remarks before the U.S. Defense Department staff in which you expressed your determination to continue the policy of harming Iraq and occupying and insulting the holy places and land of the Arabs and Muslims in Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia]. Frankly speaking, Mr. President, as I was reading your remarks, which clearly show an underestimation of and disregard for the Arab mentality and popular and official sentiments, your shallow thinking came into sharp focus, when I had thought you were more far-sighted. Also, my faith has been strengthened in the right path chosen by the people of Iraq, and down which I am leading them and through which I am serving them. My conviction of the soundness of every jealous Arab and Muslim choosing the route of jihad against invading forces has been reinforced.

President of the superpower: Along with your little agents, you have sought to stigmatize Saddam Husayn with the epithet of liar, having failed to tarnish him otherwise—you, who have access to fat files about others, from them—foremost of whom are your supporters in the region. You and your agents and your business partners in the region have been saying that Saddam Husayn promised Husni Mubarak that he would not do such-and-such a thing and yet went ahead and did it. This is despite the fact that you know that your greatest dream is for Saddam Husayn to lie, since the one who lies will lose the power to influence things and will relent in his determination, having lost the staples of faith, since what you hate most in terms of plotters in the United States and in terms of your little isolated agents in the region is the truthfulness of men. And the man you hate most is Saddam Husayn, inasmuch as his faithfulness toward principle, his honesty with himself and his people and nation make him the servant and leader of the people and nation and not the servant of the foreigner, while you look at liars in the region as true friends, and you know who the ultimate liars in the region are.

President of the United States: You have chosen to be a liar so that you may be in harmony with the band you have chosen and regarded as representatives of the Arab nation. In your statements, you have lied to the people and public opinion, because you accused Saddam Husayn of being a liar, on the strength of the tale of Husni Mubarak in which he alleges that Saddam Husayn had promised not to use military force and yet he did. This tale has been disproved by evidence witnessed by at least eight Iraqi and Egyptian officials who are still alive and can bear witness.

I did not promise Husni Mubarak anything, except that I would not use force until after the Jeddah meeting had convened. This was explained in detail by an official Iraqi spokesman on 10 August 1990. I suppose that you must have taken cognizance of this statement. As you must be well aware, I used force only after the failure and end of the Jeddah meeting.

Besides, you lied to your people when you said that the majority of the Arabs support your measures to occupy the Gulf, Arab lands, and the Islamic holy lands of Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia]. The Arabs, O president of the United States, are not the rulers who serve you, obey your orders, and share with you the plundering of the nation's wealth. The Arabs are the people. They are the sons of the nation—the poor, the honorable, and the sincerest patriots. They are the patriotic leaders and rulers who clearly expressed their opinion of your policy and the policy of your agents in their statements, in their rejection of your conspiracy that you termed the Cairo summit, and in the mass demonstrations and protests that will turn into a flood and sweep away the thrones of those who fail to resist your schemes, which humiliate the Arab nation and the Muslims' holy sites—the schemes in which you made clear how much you hate the Arabs and how much you despise their will as well as the will of Muslims.

The Western, and even U.S., public will be on the side of right. When the fight escalates and the tensions worsen, your distorted image, as well as the distorted images of your allies, will be exposed to all well-meaning parties in the world. The Americans will then tell you: We united America with blood. Why are you working against the unity of the Iraqi people, who were divided by colonial powers? And why are you making yourself a hostage to the whims of the backward and the exploiters? They will ask you: Where are our legitimate interests that are threatened by Iraq? When the American people realize that legitimate interests are more than welcomed by Iraq, their wrath against you will increase, and then you will fall off your seat after the defeat of your brute force, which you deluded yourself into believing would terrorize the Arab nation. This is the great nation chosen by God to be the nation of prophets and messengers and the nation of heavenly books.

You, U.S. President, lied to your people when you told them that you were massing troops to protect American interests in Saudi Arabia. Now, you are telling them that they are there to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. You have not asked yourself: Is it permissible for Iraq to ask you to withdraw your troops from the southern United States? And would you respond favorably if we were to request you to do this? We are on our land. The Kuwaitis and Iraqis have been Iraqis since the beginning of time. Since time immemorial, Iraqi borders extended

from Zakho in the north to the city of al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi] and the city of Kuwait on the sea coast in the south.

With their irreversible manifestation of willpower, the Iraqis have become one people, just as they have always been throughout history. The people were divided by colonial powers at a certain phase. They were destined to live, during a short period of time, within the confines of the fences created by colonial powers. However, this has become a thing of the past. Besides, there is no chance for the backward oil amirs who distorted the Arab image to Westerners, including Americans, to return to the throne which disgraced the Arabs by its characteristics and standards and by the behavior of its rulers and those of their ilk among your allies.

You must be truthful to your people, O elected president of the United States, and tell them that you have miscalculated and that you have been hasty in your decision, thanks to those who involved you in this decision. You must say this to us, too, and ask us to help you so as to save face through measures and arrangements that do not change the essence of things as they have become, as regards the unity of Iraq—the land and the people. Moreover, you must also be truthful to your people and say that Arab public opinion—in fact, Islamic as well—are against your presence on the land of [the heavenly] messages and the land of prophets, and against your aggression on the holy places and on Iraq, and that the Arab and Islamic public opinion will fight your schemes and will sacrifice blessed life in defense of faith, the values of the [Islamic] message, the holy places, and the honor of nationalism. You will be defeated, because falsehood cannot triumph after right has found its claimants, and the people have found their genuine reflection in right, justice, and fairness.

Moreover, are you not sad—being the President of the state which brags about being democratic—that your allies are those Arabs who are backward, thieves, and liars, while the enlightened, struggling, and mujahidin Arabs and the vanguard of the nation stand on the opposite side. However, we will continue to pray to God that the two sides will not collide, for then thousands of Americans wrapped up in sad coffins will reach you after you have sent them into a dark tunnel.

O Arabs, the doors of Heaven have been laid open to you, and you can smell its pure aroma; the opportunity for an honorable living has been made available to you. O Muslims, your faithful role has come, and the door of jihad has been laid open—the door which angered the shameless [fajir] Bush—so, proceed toward it. God is great. Accursed be the lowly. God is great. Accursed be the infidels and aggressors. Might for the Arabs and the Muslims and all honorable men who stand for right in the world.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn. 25 Muharram, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 16, August 1990.

Tariq 'Aziz Warns U.S. Against Gulf Agression

JN1608205090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2011 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Washington, 16 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has warned the United States of dire consequences if it aggresses against Iraq.

In an interview with the American ABC television network via satellite from Baghdad last night, he said that if the idea of deploying U.S. forces to the region is war, I think that they will come to regret it, since they will lose the war and reap the kind of defeat that will prove disgraceful to the United States.

'Aziz recalled a statement by President Saddam Husayn to the American charge d'affaires when the two met in Baghdad recently that the Iraqis are capable of defending themselves against any rash adventure, and the U.S. Administration will lose in the confrontation.

'Aziz added: And if the huge U.S. arsenal has been sent to the region to defend Saudi Arabia against a perceived Iraqi attack, I believe the United States is only wasting its time and frittering away its money, fuel, and nerves, since Iraq harbors no such intentions.

'Aziz emphasized that the United States had come to the region to aggress against Iraq, undermine it, and dominate the entire region, including it vast oil reserves. The foreign minister recalled a declaration by President Saddam Husayn at the Amman Arab summit conference that the United States was planning to dominate the region and have exclusive control of the oil markets, pricing and production policies with a view to securing its requirements for the crude and manipulating this strategic commodity according to a plan to control the world.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that Iraq has no hostile intentions toward Saudi Arabia as fabricated by the U.S. Administration to justify its military intervention in the region.

He added: Since the beginning of the crisis, we explained to Saudi officials that we harbor no such intentions. We also explained this at the Cairo meeting, and we said that we are ready to give any guarantees on bilateral level or under the aegis of the Arab League, but they did not respond to us; they responded to the Americans.

On Kuwait, Tariq 'Aziz said: This subject has been with the Iraqis and the region for a very long time. The veteran politicians, such as King Husayn, who is currently in Washington, know all facts in this regard. King Husayn knows history very well, and will explain the matter to President Bush. King Husayn knows all facts in this regard.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Throughout history, Kuwait has been part of Iraq until 1913, when the British deliberately separated this part from Iraq and imposed a subservient

regime comprising a handful of corrupt shaykhs who created a separate entity. When a new Iraqi government was formed under King Faysal I, the Iraqi kingdom did not recognize Kuwait as an independent entity; neither did the Iraqi leaders after Faysal I.

He said: We tried our best to live in peace with the rulers of Kuwait, achieve a normal relationship with them, and maintain the minimum and possible level of Iraqi rights. However, they did not cooperate, and insisted on denying Iraq everything and on conspiring against it with the United States.

On the president's latest initiative for peace with Iran, Tariq 'Aziz said that it constitutes a brave and historic initiative, and that peace is in the interest of Iran and Iraq, and should also be in the interest of all states, including the United States.

Nation Releases First Group of Iranian Prisoners

JN1708114190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1129 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—The first batch of Iranian prisoners, who Iraq has decided to release in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August, was handed over today.

The first batch of Iranian prisoners, which included 1,000 prisoners in total, was handed over as soon as they arrived at the delivery point on the Iraqi-Iranian border at 1000 today.

The delivery was made under the supervision of representatives from the International Committee for the Red Cross after the organizations responsible for receiving and delivering the prisoners had provided all the transportation to the delivery points on the border and full medical services.

Relatives Asked Not To Hinder Prisoner Movement

JN1708151090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Appeal from the President's Office: To the relatives of the dear prisoners, to the relatives of the dear prisoners: After the Iranian authorities have agreed to release the prisoners in batches, God willing, in response to the leader president's initiative, may God preserve him, we appeal to the relatives of all prisoners not to go to the delivery centers and not to escort the convoys to avoid creating confusion in the smooth flow of convoys. The leader president, may God preserve him, has ordered the transportation of prisoners to their relatives and is providing them with all necessary medical services. The competent authorities shall take the necessary measures to implement this directive.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, head of the President's Office and supervisor of the committees on delivering and receiving of prisoners

UN Secretary General Praises Saddam Initiative

JN1708093690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations, 16 Aug (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has welcomed President Saddam Husayn's initiative and said that it constitutes a big development in the peace process between Iraq and Iran. An INA correspondent in New York quoted Nadia Yunus, spokeswoman of the UN secretary general, as saying that the UN secretary general has received the initiative with satisfaction and considered Iraq's announcement of its determination to commence the withdrawal of forces and the release of the prisoners of war on the same day as an encouraging sign.

The UN secretary general said he instructed the command of the UN Iran-Iraq Observer Group to place itself at the disposal of the two sides and to carry out its role.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Withdrawal From Iran

JN1608142590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1347 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—Staff Field Marshall President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this morning presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. During the meeting, the period of the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Iranian territory was defined at five days, starting on 17 August 1990.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; and Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, defense minister.

Ambassador Explains Why Foreigners Detained

AU1708080790 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 17 Aug 90 p 5

[Irene Miller report: "Iraqi Authorities Do Not Have Time To Issue Exit Permits to Foreigners"]

[Excerpt] Vienna—"All foreigners in Iraq are well, their freedom of movement within Iraq is not restricted." At a press conference on Thursday [16 August] Rahim al-Kital, Iraqi ambassador to Austria, rejected the use of the term "hostages." The foreigners are not detained as hostages.

Al-Kital provided a completely different reason: "All Iraqi authorities are currently completely busy with struggling against the U.S. starvation campaign against our country. Therefore, at the moment no one has time to make the necessary travel arrangements for the foreigners. We hope that this will be possible as soon as conditions change." The Iraqi ambassador insisted that

his country is not using the foreigners as hostages; there is also no different treatment of foreigners from different countries.

The Austrians who are in Iraq are not considered to be hostile foreigners. The ambassador stated that he does not have any information about whether or not Arab foreigners have received exit permits.

The United States and some other states, as well as the UN Security Council, have responded to the attempt to regain that part of the Iraqi province of al-Basrah, which was established as the legal unit of Kuwait as late as 1961, with an unprecedented campaign against his country, Al-Kital explained. But the Iraqi people will resist with all means.

"We will persevere until our just demands are fulfilled," Al-Kital said. "But we hope that reason will prevail and that the other side will start negotiations." [passage omitted]

Oil Ministry Spokesman Criticizes U.S. Policy

JN1608183790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—A responsible official spokesman at the Iraqi Oil Ministry has disclosed the policy of contradictions that reveals the reality of the United States and its policy aimed at serving its own interests. The spokesman affirmed in a statement here today that the behavior and practices of the U.S. Government toward Iraq reflects clear contradictions and shows how the United States adapts things to serve its own needs without giving any importance to the interests of its allies.

Following is the text of the statement:

A few hours after the United States announced the unjust decision of the economic embargo against our country, the relevant authorities issued subsequent instructions allowing the unloading of Iraqi oil exported from us, which had been loaded before 2 August 1990. A number of consignments have actually been unloaded at U.S. ports in the past few days. The objective was to protect its economic interests, prevent the stoppage of work at some of its refineries, and to have an opportunity to find alternative sources to Iraqi oil.

Because the United States is far from Iraq and its oil outlets, the shipments loaded at the Mediterranean need more than 20 days to arrive at the United States, and the shipments loaded at the southern ports need approximately 45 days to get there. Therefore, Iraqi oil bound for the United States will continue to arrive and be unloaded in America until the middle of the ninth month [September]. Meanwhile, most of the consignments loaded for Europe before the unjust embargo decision might have arrived and already been unloaded. This will give the United States a respite which is one month more than the time given its European allies.

At the same time, the U.S. Government asked the governments of the states to adopt the embargo decision, and put various forms of political and economic pressure on them to impose a comprehensive economic and trade boycott on Iraq. This resulted in the stoppage of consignments, the majority of which are foodstuffs, and others which are used for humanitarian purposes. These consignments were exported to Iraq from these countries before the Security Council resolution imposed the economic embargo on Iraq. Some of these consignments were even stopped while en route to Iraq across some countries, at some ports, and even at unloading ports.

The aggressive behavior and practices of the U.S. Government toward Iraq reflects clear contradictions, and shows how the United States adapts things to serve its own needs without giving any importance to the interests of its allies or caring about the material and economic damages that might be inflicted on these countries, the exporters, and producers as a result of halting exports to Iraq.

This is another example of the policy of contradictions that reveals the reality of the United States and its policy aimed at serving its own interests.

Ambassador Says Economic Embargo Will Backfire

JN1608173190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, 16 Aug (INA)—Dr. Rahim al-Kital, Iraqi ambassador to Austria, has affirmed that the economic embargo against Iraq which the United States is engineering will backfire against it and its allies, and will harm them.

Addressing a press conference attended by radio, television, press, and news agency correspondents in Vienna today, Dr. al-Kital said the blockade called for by the United States against Iraq contravenes the international law and the recent UN resolution. Therefore, what the United States is undertaking is a unilateral action against Iraq, he remarked.

He affirmed that Iraq will resist and withstand the massive U.S. military assembly in the Arabian Peninsula and Arabian Gulf in defense of their legitimate rights and just cause. He reaffirmed Iraq's readiness to discuss all problems in the region on an equal footing, proceeding from the initiative declared by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August.

He also reiterated Iraq's readiness to discuss the current situation without preconditions, provided that the other side is prepared for this, instead of threatening the use of military force.

On the initiative declared by President Saddam Husayn yesterday regarding a settlement of the pending problems with Iran, Dr. al-Kital said that it is a genuine peace initiative which culminated after negotiations and efforts which lasted for four months.

Waldegrave Remarks on Chemical Weapons Denounced

JN1608211790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—A responsible source has denounced the statements by William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he claimed that the chemical weapons that have been deployed in Saudi Arabia are for defensive purposes and that no one is willing to use them.

In a statement to INA tonight, the responsible source questioned the idea behind making such statements by the British minister, and their unconvincing justifications. He said: Where is the world conscience and the international position that should be adopted toward this aggressive move which is not aimed against Iraq only, but also against the Arab nation?

He appealed to the world conscience to stand alongside truth and justice. He said that Waldegrave's statements are not aimed at making flimsy justifications, but they expose the true objectives of the presence of the aggressive military forces in the Arab region—forces which do not hesitate to use all types of weapons, including chemical weapons.

The source strongly condemned these aggressive acts, warning that Arab indignation and the unity of the Arab nation's ranks against aggression will bury the U.S.-British-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy, stressing that victory will always be ours, God willing.

Reports of State of Emergency in Nation Denied

JN1608155890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—An official spokesman has denied the TASS report citing MENA that Baghdad is in a state of emergency, that tanks and armored vehicles are patrolling the streets of Baghdad, and that Army units are being deployed in positions near the ministries. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that these reports are untrue, that Baghdad is proud of its stability, and that its sons are living a normal life under the leadership of their beloved leader Saddam Husayn. The originators and propagators of such fabrications are known; they affirm once again that they target lofty and victorious Iraq—Iraq of victory and peace.

Minister Discounts Report of Mass Arrests

JN1608171890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has denied a MENA report that there were many arrests of military and civilian officials yesterday.

The minister told INA it was not surprising that U.S.- and Zionist-sponsored agents should fabricate such silly stories. No one will give credence to such inaccurate news, which amounts to nothing more than nonsense uttered by suspect people associated with U.S. and Zionist circles out to discredit Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn, Jasim said.

Speaker Thanks Jordanian, Other Arab Parliaments

JN1708102890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, has affirmed Iraq's thanks and appreciation for the honest positions adopted by Jordan, Tunisia, the Republic of Yemen, Algeria, and Libya with regard to Iraq at this crucial stage in which Iraq and the Arab nation is being exposed to the toughest test through the most violent imperialist and Zionist onslaught led by the United States. This came in a message sent by the speaker of the National Assembly to the Jordanian Senate and House of Representatives, the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, the Yemeni Council of Representatives, the Algerian People's National Assembly, and the Libyan General People's Congress.

Salih said that the land of the [Arabian] Peninsula is being exposed to the ugliest test and humiliation by the most brutal and rancorous forces of infidelity on earth with cover provided by some defeatist and conspiratorial Arab rulers who have taken the role of guards and servants for the interests of the hostile imperialist forces and violators of the national Islamic affiliation. He added that these forces and rulers aim at weakening Iraq's vanguard pan-Arab role in defense of the nation's honor and dignity and to protect the holy places from the filth of the aggressive tyrants.

The speaker of the National Assembly reiterated Iraq's thanks and appreciation for the honest positions adopted by these sisterly countries—stands that stem from keeping Arab good faith with the Arab people in Iraq. He pledged that the sons of Iraq will continue to be faithful to their principles until they defeat the aggression and purge the Arab land of the traitors and infidels who seek to humiliate our nation.

Salih expressed his hope that all the efforts of the good people in our great Arab homeland will converge to put pressure toward expelling the foreign forces from the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. He added that we are confident that the Arabs can resolve their problems within the Arab community.

Nation Welcomes Libyan Call for UN Settlement

LD1608211690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq has welcomed the call of the leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] for finding a fundamental solution to the present crisis in the Arab Gulf under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Iraqi UN delegate stressed in a statement yesterday that his country welcomes the presence of an international force, under UN auspices, whose mission would be peacekeeping. He indicated Iraq's desire to find a peaceful solution to the problem in the Gulf. He said we welcome any initiative that favors the political solution over the military threat.

Kurdish Spokesman Considers Overthrow of Saddam

AU1708133790 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 17 Aug 90 p 3

[Interview with Mahmud Osman, "father of the Kurdish Social Democrats and his people's representative at the CSCE in Vienna," by Ferdinand Hennerbichler in Vienna; date not given: "The Hope of the Kurdish Leader"]

[Text] [Hennerbichler] Is Saddam Husayn at the end of his rope?

[Osman] I am not quite sure. No one knows what is going to happen. There can still be a compromise. The blockade against Iraq need not necessarily be maintained. Saddam Husayn is playing for time. He will remain unpredictable to the end.

[Hennerbichler] For the first time in many years the United States and the West have started to talk with the Kurds about a democratic future in Iraq. Could this also bring about new freedoms for the Kurds?

[Osman] We are very careful and restrained. The Kurds have repeatedly been the victims of history. When the West had problems it used the Kurds and then dropped them again as soon as its interests were secure. This must never happen again. The Kurds do not ever again want to be victims; they do not ever again want to be massacred as in 1975 or gassed and driven away as in the Gulf War, where the world looked on each time without doing anything. We Kurds want to be recognized as an independent people with legitimate rights.

[Hennerbichler] What are the political goals of the Kurds?

[Osman] Democracy for Iraq and national rights for the Kurdish people.

[Hennerbichler] Will the Kurds help to overthrow Saddam Husayn?

[Osman] There will be no solo action by the Kurds. The Kurds alone cannot overthrow the Iraqi regime. However, we are already actively working on establishing an all-Iraqi national opposition. At the same time we are increasing our resistance. We have also started a new diplomatic offensive. The world is now showing more understanding for the cause of the Kurds.

However there is the following danger: If Saddam Husayn survives, he will again intensify hatred, destruction, devastation, and genocide of the Kurds. This must not happen. The Kurds have suffered enough and paid a high enough price in the course of history.

Therefore, we are pursuing a clear line. First, we want a solution to the Kurdish question. We first want guarantees for legitimate national rights. Then we are open to any kind of cooperation. But we no longer want any interim solutions, but only a lasting solution, one which will be preserved. Until then we will be forced to put up resistance.

We think that in the end the only solution must be a national political solution for the Kurdish people. This is for what we are struggling. We do not believe in violence, not to speak of violent solutions. But we do believe in legitimate national rights for the Kurds in Iraq.

[Hennerbichler] Does the world crisis concerning Iraq help the Kurds?

[Osman] I think so, yes. Interest in and understanding for the Kurds is increasing all over the world. Saddam Husayn is busy attacking others, murdering, and destroying. The pressure on the Kurds is diminishing. If the Kurds now achieve national rights via the joint opposition for which we strive, this could lead to a new democratic future in Iraq.

However, at the moment there are no specific guarantees for the Kurds—guarantees for freedom, democracy, and national rights. So far, only new, promising activities can be seen, but not by far a solution for the Kurds—or for democracy in Iraq.

Arens Assesses Effects of Regional Situation

BAMAHANE Interview

TA1708085390 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 15 Aug 90 pp 16-19

["Exclusive" interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yosef Argaman; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Argaman] An affinity of interests seems to have emerged between Syria and Israel, and that looks bizarre. Even prior to the Gulf crisis there had been talk about Syrian feelers about some kind of settlement. How do you perceive the situation?

[Arens] I would not say that there is an affinity of interests between us and Syria. Syria says that it is in a state of war with Israel, and it definitely is in a state of war with Israel. Syria keeps a very large army and is ruled by an omnipotent ruler who may decide to launch a war tomorrow. Although at the moment the Arab world is split, we have seen in the past that the Arab countries are capable of closing ranks and uniting in a coalition against Israel when necessary.

[Argaman] Nevertheless, there is deep hostility between Iraq and Syria....

[Arens] I do not foresee a war between Syria and Iraq. On the other hand, I cannot rule out the possibility of a coalition on our eastern front in which we would not face Iraq alone, but both Iraq and Syria. We have seen that before.

[Argaman] You say that, in spite of recent talk about a settlement concerning the Golan Heights and the hints by al-Asad that he wishes to join the circle of talkers.

[Arens] Al-Asad knows that we are prepared to conduct direct negotiations with him anytime and anywhere, but he does not seem to be willing to do that.

[Argaman] The Palestinians say that now they will once again be forgotten. Do you subscribe to that view?

[Arens] We will not forget them because they live with us.

[Argaman] Nevertheless, their ceaseless efforts to rekindle the flames of the intifadah in order to direct the world's attention to their cause seem to have been diverted once again, this time to the Persian Gulf.

[Arens] The intifadah has not benefited them in any way. It only caused a great deal of suffering, casualties, and economic damage. In my opinion, the Palestinians can promote their interests only by entering a dialogue with Israel based on the Israeli Government's peace initiative. This initiative is as valid today as it was prior to the events in the Gulf. This initiative and our commitment to it are in no way related to what happened in Kuwait.

[Argaman] As you see it, what are the reasons for the outbreak of the intifadah? It is said that you have your own explanation about the matter and that you make your moves, such as your meetings with Palestinians in a bid to reach an agreement.

[Arens] In my opinion, there are two reasons for the intifadah. On the one hand, the bitterness, frustration, and perhaps even despair felt by some of the Palestinian population—and anybody visiting Gaza's refugee camps, to cite one example, can easily understand that a vast part of the population feels that way. On the other hand, there is the tradition of violence that prevails in part of the population: the willingness to kill and maim, to use their bare hands, stones, and Molotov cocktails. The combination of the two brought about the intifadah.

[Argaman] The former defense minister and the chief of staff have on more than one occasion said that the intifadah will not be solved without a political solution. It seems to me you do not subscribe to that view.

[Arens] That is definitely not my view. As I see it, to say such things is also a mistake. In my recent meetings with groups of Palestinians I reiterated that a civilized society is measured by its ability to solve disputes without resorting to violence. I said that both sides, we and the Palestinian population, are currently being measured by our ability to settle differences of opinion without resorting to violence. In my opinion, a dialogue is the first step toward promoting the political process, and that step can only be taken in the absence of violence. Therefore, ending the violence is the primary condition for the peace process and not the other way around.

[Argaman] Are you optimistic in the wake of your talks with Palestinians?

[Arens] I am optimistic in the sense that it is clear to me that the State of Israel is making, and will continue to make, an effort to enter a dialogue with these people, in a bid to promote the political process. I hope they will show a similar willingness. If they do, there will be room for optimism.

[Argaman] Will they show such willingness?

[Arens] It is hard to tell. Each time I read about violence, stone-throwing incidents, and the murder of Palestinians by other Palestinians, it is hard to feel optimistic. But I hope common sense will ultimately have the upper hand.

[Argaman] Immediately upon entering office you pinpointed three key problems pertaining to the intifadah that required urgent treatment: 1) security on the roads; 2) security in the settlements; 3) preventing brutal terror. Have you seen any real results in those three fields?

[Arens] I feel it would be presumptuous on my part to state at such an early stage—and I have been sitting in this chair for just over a month and a half—that we have already had results. We are making an effort, and I believe we will get results.

[Argaman] U.S. Secretary of State Baker is still waiting for some answers. Are you in favor of giving a positive reply to Baker?

[Arens] If you excuse me, I will voice my opinion about the positions to be taken by the Israeli Government in the cabinet.

[Argaman] Let us talk about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. You have spoken about a certain slackness in the Army's discipline, and you said that you would conduct a comprehensive debate on the matter. Do you see a connection between this phenomenon and the intifadah?

[Arens] I cannot prove it scientifically. I cannot say that there is a connection, either weak or strong, or that there is no connection at all. Generally, one may say that discipline problems in the IDF are not connected to a specific event and, consequently, are not related to the intifadah. Personally, I was very impressed with the way IDF soldiers cope with the intifadah. It is a tough and very unpleasant job, and I do not think there is any other army in the world that would do it better or even as well as the IDF. Discipline problems are a matter of routine. Discipline requires strict and constant alertness. To some extent, discipline problems stem from the fact that the IDF is a people's army. Everybody is in the IDF and everybody does reserve duty, and that is why we do not exactly have the same atmosphere that existed in the Prussian Army, the most disciplined army ever. Nevertheless, even being a people's army, our challenge is to make sure that our army is disciplined so as not to affect its ability to perform.

[Argaman] The first thing you did after entering office was to look into the mistakes in the wake of the terrorist attempt to raid Israel's beaches. What did you find?

[Arens] You will have to excuse me once again, but I cannot divulge to the media, not even to BAMAHANE, what I found. We conducted internal discussions, but we will not publicize the conclusions.

[Argaman] I suppose that conclusions were reached, and you can definitely tell us as much.

[Arens] Indeed. Therein lies the greatness of the IDF. We have a long-standing tradition of learning our lesson. Things are not being thrown into the trash can. Any incident, and certainly such an important incident, is the topic of deliberations that result in conclusions and resolutions.

[Argaman] Sir, has the intifadah affected Israel's military fitness? When training and drills are slashed, an adverse effect on the army is certain.

[Arens] That is true. Having said that, I must add that ever since its establishment the IDF has not dealt exclusively with its primary mission, which is to prepare for war on the battlefield. The IDF has always been entrusted with extra tasks, which seemed important, and their fulfillment has to some extent come at the expense of its preparedness. Nevertheless, whenever the need arose, the Israeli people found the IDF ready to fight on the battlefield. Today we have problems of day-to-day security—and the IDF deals a lot with them—and that certainly comes at the expense of training. If we have to see to the safety of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, both Jews and Arabs, that certainly comes at the expense of training. At the same time, I think the IDF is in a good situation. The IDF is a reliable, highly professional and properly armed army.

[Argaman] A short question about the Lavi. Did you propose to the Americans that they purchase it to provide aerial support to the ground forces?

[Arens] Yes, that is correct.

[Argaman] Is there a chance that they will buy it?

[Arens] I do not know. I would say chances are not very high, seeing that the Lavi was not developed by the United States. If they decide to purchase it nevertheless, we must make an effort to sell this enormous asset, which is worth a lot of money. The Lavi is the best jet fighter in the world, even today. I will not waste any opportunity to market our abilities and assets. If we succeed, that will have been a very big bonus for us. [passage omitted]

[Argaman] Sir, what will happen to Israel's military industries? With the exception of what is happening in the Persian Gulf, the world really seems to be marching toward an era of global detente, and already today it is hard to export weapons.

[Arens] Our military industries are admirable and make a very important contribution to the IDF's might. One could say that the IDF's qualitative edge is largely based on our own developments. We are living in an era where even Western countries, including the United States, sell their best equipment to the Arab armies. The policy of ensuring Israel a qualitative edge is no longer being implemented. Therefore, the military industries must attain the qualitative edge that we must have in the face of the quantitative edge of the Arab armies. Very sophisticated, advanced, and secret systems are being developed by our industries.

[Argaman] What about exports? After all, without exporting the products it is hard to keep the industries running.

[Arens] Israel is a very small state. Our market is too small, and the shrinking export markets affects us. As is known, export markets are currently shrinking.

[Argaman] What is being done about it?

[Arens] We cannot expand the markets, and we will do nothing to expand them.

[Argaman] Perhaps they should diversify and start manufacturing peacetime products.

[Arens] Not necessarily. We simply want our products to be better, more efficient, and cheaper, so as not to cut our production levels. I would not pin too much hope on the diversification to civilian products by the military industries. This would entail altogether different technical, engineering, and scientific activity. There are not many examples of military industries worldwide who made a successful transfer from the development of aircraft to medical electronic equipment.

[Argaman] Let us talk about the northern border. Once again, there is all-out fighting in Lebanon. You have gone on record as saying that under certain circumstances Israel might intervene. What would those circumstances be?

[Arens] Nothing has changed; everybody is fighting and killing everybody else in Lebanon. The Lebanese tragedy continues, but when it comes knocking on our door, we definitely start to get worried. The danger is that Fatah may take advantage of the fighting between Hizballah and Amal, in which the PLO is also involved, to move south. We must watch for such a development. [passage omitted]

[Argaman] Is it difficult and stressful to have to deal with Saddam Husayn; that is, with a man who seems to operate irrationally?

[Arens] It is not stressful. Furthermore, I am not sure that the word irrational applies. In my opinion, Saddam is a man who can put two and two together. He erred in his calculations about Iran, but he seems to have done alright with regard to Kuwait. What distinguishes him from other leaders are his standards and norms of behavior; in other words, his willingness to resort to force.

[Argaman] Do you think that more than ever before the world today can take effective action against a man like Saddam Husayn?

[Arens] The world definitely can. Although Iraq has a large economic and military potential, the world can definitely tackle him—and do that very well. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem TV Interview

TA1608171990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor, Yoni Ben-Menahem, and Dani Levi on the weekly "Meeting" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ben-Menahem] Sir, as defense minister, you are in charge, among other things, of reinforcing the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in the territories. Has this diminished the Army's ability to face up to the Iraqi threat?

[Arens] No. It has not had any effect at all. We beefed up the forces somewhat, particularly along the roads, thus improving security along the roads. I think that we have largely achieved the goal we had set for ourselves, but the IDF is here with all its might.

[Ganor] Mr. Defense Minister, to go back a minute to the issue of the gas masks: Do the residents of the territories and Israel's Arab residents—in fact everyone living under Israeli sovereignty—have the means to protect themselves against chemical warfare?

[Arens] I think we are very well prepared and there is no reason why anyone, Jew or Arab or resident of the territories, should worry, even though I understand that some Palestinian residents of the territories show enthusiastic support for Saddam Husayn and may even hope for a chemical attack.

As defense minister, I am responsible for the well-being and safety of all the residents of the country, including those who live in the territories.

[Ben-Menahem] And they will be given gas masks as soon as these are distributed?

[Arens] If necessary, we will be responsible for the safety of everyone.

[Ganor] Mr. Minister, regarding the source of the concern, President Bush said that the world would prefer to see Iraq without Saddam Husayn. Will his removal solve the crisis by eliminating its source?

[Arens] Conflicts and crises generally do not revolve around only one person. They involve deeper differences of opinion between groups of people or nations and countries. Yet in the case of Saddam Husayn, as in the case of other rulers, I think the situation is different. This is a dictator whose rule over Iraq lacks any democratic element, a man who murdered people with his own bare hands and built for himself great military power, someone who has no scruples, using it regardless of who might be hurt or killed. Therefore I think the crisis is largely one that revolves around that person, Saddam Husayn.

[Ganor] Will his elimination solve the crisis?

[Arens] I do not know that, but I am convinced—or rather, I think, as who can tell who will replace him?—that had Saddam Husayn today announced his resignation and bowed out, the situation could have become far better.

[Ganor] But if he fails to do that voluntarily?

[Arens] I do not know under what circumstances he would do that, and perhaps the pressure that is currently brought to bear on him from many directions could result in that. I believe Saddam Husayn has made his second mistake. He first erred in invading Iran and thinking that he could defeat it within a matter of months. It took more than eight years and he still did not subdue it. Now he has invaded Kuwait and certainly never anticipated the kind of reaction with which he was

met. I cannot tell whether this reaction will or will not lead him to conclude that he must step down.

[Levi] Could an emboldened opposition or greater pressure against him at home bring about such a move?

[Arens] I do not regard myself as an expert in Iraqi internal politics, but I imagine that when a nation has a tyrant of this type for a ruler, who has wrought upon his nation so much suffering and disasters, it is inconceivable that there would not be many in that country who would prefer to see him out.

[Ben-Menahem] Have you noticed any signs of that, for example, have there been signs that the Iraqi Army's top echelon is displeased with Saddam Husayn's moves? From what you know, are there any signs of a budding opposition?

[Arens] We know that Saddam Husayn has executed quite a few generals.

[Ben-Menahem] During this crisis?

[Arens] No, no, before that, although I could not tell you if this happened during the past two weeks. Yet the very fact that he eliminates people, not dismisses people but eliminates them, indicates that there must be people who evidently hold rather high positions who are not too happy with his reign.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, King Husayn is seen as caught between the Israeli devil and the Iraqi deep blue sea. What do you expect him to do so that the Israeli devil does not strike him?

[Arens] We do not want to strike him, and wish him long life and his regime stability, but this monarch has already made mistakes in his career—we can recall the one in 1967, when he joined al-Nasir in attacking Israel. I hope he does not commit one now.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Minister, you said that Israel will intervene and enter Jordan if Iraqi units enter Jordan. If there is a coup and Husayn's rule ends, will that be an Israeli red line and sufficient cause for it to enter Jordan?

[Arens] We will consider every situation according to Israel's interests.

[Ben-Menahem] What will our interests be in such a case?

[Arens] I do not wish to discuss hypothetical scenarios. If a certain situation materializes, we will review it and if we decide that our interests require action, we will act unhesitatingly.

[Ganor] What if Iraqi forces are stationed on the Jordanian border; will this be considered a provocation?

[Arens] I have just said that it would not be wise to deal with hypothetical scenarios. Our military might is well known. We will act unhesitatingly if we see that our interests are endangered.

[Ben-Menahem] Nevertheless, you chose to address yourself to a scenario where Iraqi forces enter Jordan.

[Arens] That is true. We said we will not accept that.

[Ben-Menahem] Would an increase to power of pro-Iraqi elements in Jordan constitute a red line from Israel's point of view?

[Arens] As I said before, I do not think there is a point in dealing with additional scenarios. I have thought that it is important that Saddam Husayn be made aware of our position concerning the entrance of Iraqi troops into Jordan; I believe that today he knows. There is no need to add to that.

[Ganor] The current crisis has created the impression, at least in public, that the strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States has loosened up. As defense minister, is this your impression as well?

[Arens] No, it has not loosened up at all. It exists as it always has. It is very important for us in Israel and I believe it is important for the United States that—for obvious reasons—we are not involved in the current U.S. operation in Saudi Arabia. A Saudi agreement is required before forces can be deployed there. The United States is trying and succeeding in garnering the support and cooperation of additional Arab countries. I believe everyone can see why, under these circumstances, Israel is not involved in this effort.

[Levi] Have we offered help that the United States rejected?

[Arens] No, we need not make any offers. Our relations are so good that everything is self-evident.

[Ganor] And the strategic cooperation was basically not affected?

[Arens] Not a bit.

[Ganor] Still, can the strategic cooperation between the United States and the Arab states diminish the value of cooperation with Israel?

[Arens] Not at all. I believe that every Israeli should be glad to see the Untied States getting at least a part of the Arab world to join the campaign against Saddam Husayn. We would certainly not like to see it the other way.

[Ben-Menahem] Should we be glad, for example, to see a report in THE WASHINGTON POST that the United States is about to supply Egypt and perhaps another Arab country with sophisticated weapons that could in the future be used against us?

[Arens] U.S. arms supply to Arab armies is and always has been a problem for Israel. I would suggest that this not be examined at this particular moment, which after all is unique in view of the Gulf crisis.

[Ben-Menahem] What is your personal view on the issue?

[Arens] I have just said that in my opinion this issue should not be examined at this moment, with a crisis in the Gulf. Nonetheless, our basic position is well known.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, does the PLO's decision to support Iraq without reserve contribute to solving the Palestinian problem? I am asking you because of your experience as foreign minister, a post you held until not long ago.

[Arens] I think that the PLO does not contribute and has never contributed to any positive treatment of the Palestinian problem. I believe it only caused damage and has constituted an obstacle to promoting the political process. 'Arafat and the PLO's support for Saddam Husayn merely serve to expose their true face. This, of course, came as no surprise to Israel, although for the Americans or the West Europeans it was a great surprise. They thought: How can this man, who purports to seek peace and wants to bring peace to the region, stand by Saddam Husayn the tyrant?

[Ganor] Would you say that the current Gulf crisis blocked the political process, even without the PLO's support for Iraq?

[Arens] I do not think this blocked or can block the process. The element that wants to advance the political process more than anyone else is Israel and we will make sure the process is advanced under all circumstances, including the existing ones.

[Ben-Menahem] But there will be no alternative but to wait for this crisis to end, is that not so, sir?

[Arens] I do not wait. As you know, I have been trying to form contacts and establish communication channels with the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, and have not ceased even after the crisis erupted. I am continuing this.

[Ben-Menahem] In your opinion, can the shows of sympathy expressed by the residents of the territories toward Iraq and Saddam Husayn lead to an increase in the level of violence in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza which you, by virtue of your position, have managed recently to decrease substantially?

[Ganor] Let me add to my colleague's question: Will this not in fact have a negative effect on the promotion of the political process, to which you aspire?

[Arens] I think this danger exists, to a certain extent. In my opinion the main danger is for the position of the Israeli public that desires a dialogue and a solution to the problem. I think that when the press correctly or incorrectly reports that the majority of the Palestinian population supports Saddam Husayn—what is the import of this? That these people support a despot, violence, occupation, and use of chemical weapons. Many Israelis ask themselves: Who is there to reach a settlement with? With whom will we reach an understanding? I fear that the incentive or desire that exists among the Israeli public to proceed toward conciliation and agreement might be affected.

[Ben-Menahem] You still did not say whether there is fear, or a chance, that this situation could result in an increase in the level of violence in Judaea and Samaria, or whether the population is completely exhausted by the intifadah and no such danger exists.

[Arens] First of all, I do not think so, because we will stem violence if we are satisfied that there is here an attempt to start increasing it. As to whether the Palestinians are tired, that is my impression, but I am not authorized to speak for them.

[Ganor] If this is the situation in the territories, what about the Israeli Arabs and the signs of sympathy toward Saddam Husayn?

[Arens] Again, I have not seen a reliable scientific survey, nor do all the polls always reflect the true reality. There is no doubt in my mind that there are many Israeli Arabs, many of whom I know personally, who loathe tyranny and such a violent person as Saddam Husayn, who want nothing to do with him, and who object to the use of military force to overpower other countries. I have no doubt that many members of the Arab population of Israel feel that way. It is a source of great disappointment for me to hear that there are others who support the actions of a man like Saddam Husayn. I cannot easily comprehend this, but it seems to be the sad reality.

[Ganor] There is an Arab party—Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah—who is even prepared to go to Baghdad.

[Arens] Yes, I have heard this, and I know MK Darawshah. I was deeply sorry to hear this. There will undoubtedly be people who will say that they were not surprised by this.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, to what extent have the Gulf events affected the economic predicament of the residents of the territories?

[Arens] We are in the midst of an attempt to gauge that effect. I think it is significant because quite a few residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District work in Kuwait and send their income, their salary, back to the territories. I presume all this will now come to an end because the Iraqis have taken over everything.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, is the defense establishment aware of the fact that someone may attempt to allow food convoys from Judaea and Samaria into Jordan and from there to Iraq as a show of support for Saddam Husayn? Have you taken some measures to supervise and control that?

[Arens] I have not heard that, but you can rest assured that no help for Saddam Husayn will come from Israel or any area under its control.

[Ganor] What about the assistance, or the Israeli aid, which the establishment under your jurisdiction is obligated to offer Kuwaiti nationals who came to the territories on summer visits and are stuck?

[Arens] We will have to deal with this issue. We will undoubtedly take the existing circumstances into consideration and try to help to the best of our ability.

[Ganor] Have any stayed behind, as far as you know?

[Arens] Yes, certainly there are some.

[Ben-Menahem] According to reports, the Civil Administration has extended their visas?

[Arens] That is correct and we will try to help as much as we can.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, one of the goals in your security concept, which you laid down when you assumed office about two months ago, was to reduce friction between the IDF and the local residents of the territories. Two months after the formation of the government, do you feel that this policy has yielded good results?

[Arens] Look, we want to avoid violence and sacrifices. It does not depend on us alone. The source of violence is men who preach violence and participate in violent acts in the territories. But if we can today note the fact that approximately 10 weeks have elapsed in which in the Gaza Strip, for example, no local resident has been killed by IDF fire, then I believe this is a major achievement that everyone should appreciate. To my deep regret I will not be able to say that no Palestinian was killed in the Gaza Strip during that period because quite a few Palestinians were assassinated by fellow Palestinians as part of Palestinian terror. But IDF fire has caused no casualties in the Gaza Strip in the past two and one-half months, and this is an achievement.

[Ben-Menahem] In that case, sir, do you not fear that the abstention of the IDF from using firearms against the locals might affect the Army's deterrent capability?

[Arens] I do not think so. I have visited the Gaza Strip, as well as Judaea and Samaria, several times already since entering office and there is no doubt in my mind that the IDF's might exists and that the population acknowledges it. It is clear to one and all that whenever necessary the IDF will use all its might.

[Levi] Sir, you have met with a number of personalities and have been holding routine meetings with the local population. At least with respect to the meetings that were reported and analyzed by the media, the impression among the residents of the territories was that you meet with the junior leadership. There was even occasional criticism that you meet with people who are identified with the Israeli authorities. Do you accept this criticism?

[Arens] I do not think so. Since entering office, I have already conferred with several dozen, more than 100, people in Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria. I met with people of a high class. I do not know who has the authority to pronounce someone a leader and another as not a leader. After all, the region is unaccustomed to democratic processes, elections were never held there—though I hope elections will be held there. When I talk to a physician, an engineer, an attorney, an accountant, or anyone who holds office in the municipal framework or in other areas, it is my impression, for one, that most of them carry some clout, that they are capable men with a high level of intelligence and with a keen eye for the processes that take place in the field.

[Ben-Menahem] Are they also people who represent the national line, as the Palestinians call it?

[Arens] Look, I think that you can argue that any man you meet represents only himself as he was not elected, after all. But there is no doubt in my mind that many of the people with whom I have met have voiced opinions and positions that characterize a large segment of the population.

[Ganor] You mentioned elections, Mr. Arens. Did you mean elections for the municipal councils or the same elections that are referred to in the Israeli peace initiative?

[Arens] The Israeli peace initiative includes four points, the last of which mentions our readiness to call elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District and to conduct negotiations with the elected persons in accordance with the lines laid down in the Camp David agreements. There is no doubt in my mind that these elections are necessary, nor is there any doubt in my mind that we will hold them. My job as defense minister is to take action to create the circumstances conducive to democratic and free elections.

[Ganor] Can you specify a time frame for that?

[Arens] In my meetings with the local populace, I say: Look, we have a common interest. There are many things over which we differ. Incidentally, with respect to your question, I cannot say that most of the personalities with whom I met agree with me. If there are any who are identified with Israel or who are members of the Zionist Movement—I have not met them.

I encountered differences of opinion, at times sharp differences, but we are trying to pinpoint the areas in which our interests coincide, and there are such areas. In my opinion holding elections, at least insofar as a large slice of the population is concerned, is a common interest shared by both the Palestinian population, which I believe wants elections and wants to elect its representatives so that they know really who are their leaders who are elected democratically and by us, who represents them. [sentence as heard] I therefore tell them: Let us together create the proper conditions that would allow elections to be held.

[Ganor] One last question, and briefly, please, Mr. Arens: When can all this happen?

[Arens] It depends on both of us. To a large extent it depends on the Palestinian population and our ability to create calm in the area and bring an end to violence and terrorism by Palestinians against their kin so that people can present their candidacy and seek the support of the population, and so that every Palestinian can go to the polls freely and vote however he wishes without any fear.

[Ganor] Mr. Defense Minister, I presume this will be a topic for our next meeting. Thanks for being with us. I would also like to thank my colleagues.

Sharon Says Iraq Poses 'Great Danger' of War

TA1608162890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says that it is difficult to resolve the Gulf crisis politically because Saddam Husayn is a murderous despot. He believes that if Iraq fails to withdraw from Kuwait there is great danger that war might break out, because the regime in Baghdad is totalitarian with a large army and many weapons at its disposal.

Minister Sharon was speaking during a tour of Upper Nazareth, where he announced a plan to pave a new road from the Galilee via Upper Nazareth to the central part of the country.

Blockade Not Enough

TA1608193990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Hanan 'Azran; in Tel Aviv "a while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Sharon] I believe it would be very grave if the current crisis in the Middle East ends without a significant decrease in Iraq's power. If Iraq is left with a feeling of achievement or victory, with its loot in its hands, with those hundreds of planes, those dangerous surface-to-surface missiles, the same military might—the Middle East, and primarily Israel, will face very serious problems in the future.

['Azran] How can this military might be cut without an international military act involving the United States and perhaps Israel?

[Sharon] Israel need not be involved, unless it is attacked or the life of its citizens is endangered or actions are taken that endanger its very existence. This was made clear. I am afraid military sanctions such as a blockade on Iraq will not—if it is the only step taken—bring about an Iraqi submission. It seems that more serious action is called for. It is important that this action is taken as soon as possible. Unfortunately there is a fear that such a blockade might not hold. I congratulate President Bush for his determined remarks and stand and I hope that this will eventually decrease Iraq's aggressive potential.

['Azran] If, however, this crisis ends in a political compromise under U.S. auspices, would you consider it a good and safe solution for Israel?

[Sharon] I believe that any solution that does not seriously and significantly damage Iraq's military ability, its self-confidence, or its leader's aggression is dangerous to Israel.

['Azran] How can this happen without military action?

[Sharon] I am not saying this can be done without military action.

['Azran] Minister Sharon, should Israel take part at this time in the naval blockade on al-'Aqabah as part of the international effort of blocking Iraq?

[Sharon] Israel has not been asked to do that, which is why it should not do that. Israel is assisting the free world by merely being a stable democracy in the Middle East; by being a traditional U.S. ally. It has not been asked and need not do anything that could make things difficult for the United States. Today, Israel must make maximum preparations to defend itself and react if a situation comes about where its very existence is in danger.

['Azran] As a former defense minister, do you see a possible chemical attack by Iraq as part of Saddam Husayn's actions?

[Sharon] I believe this is not the first thing that could happen. Iraq is well aware of Israel's deterrent ability and it knows what would be the exact means we would use against it, if it used nonconventional weapons against us. Today it is good to remember the daring decision made by Begin's government in 1981—I am glad I was one of those pressing for this act—which resulted in the destruction of the nuclear reactor. One can only imagine what could be the situation today had Iraq possessed nuclear weapons as well.

Communist Party Warns on Military Involvement

TA1408161790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Israel Communist Party, MAQI, says that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait must be terminated through the United Nations and the Arab League, and not through military force. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that that MAQI bureau warns against Israeli involvement in military action against Iraq and against the exploitation of the crisis for an operation against Jordan and the Palestinians.

Egyptian Envoy Views Israeli-Arab Ties

TA1608175890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Egypt does not like red lines in the region and will not condone a deterioration in relations between Israel and the Arab countries or its relations with Jordan. This

was stated today by Fu'ad 'Abdallah, the Egyptian consul in Elat. He claims that 200,000 Egyptian workers are in Kuwait, some of whom currently wish to go back home. He pointed out that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is trying to help them but added that it is difficult to establish contact with them. This report was filed by our correspondent in Elat.

U.S., Palestinian, Government Conduct Viewed

TA1208122790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Interim Conclusions"]

[Text] The Gulf crisis is still going strong, and no one knows when or how it will end. There are many questions, but the usual contradictory answers are but guesswork and speculation. It is very likely that right now even the main protagonists in this drama do not know whether the events will end in a compromise or a tragedy.

Even if we settle for the popular assumption that for now, the United States will settle for an economic siege and a naval blockade in a bid to subdue Iraq through isolation and constriction, who can be certain that the opponent will hold his fire and avoid provocation? And perhaps this is just what the formidable shock troops deployed in the Saudi desert are waiting for?

Meanwhile, several interim conclusions from the past week's events can be noted.

The first point: All those who had been tempted to rate President Bush's United States as a shaky support and a paper tiger were absolutely wrong. The U.S. President has proved the opposite: He did not fold up; he did not maintain it was raining when Saddam Husayn spit in his face; he demonstrated determination and a decision-making ability; and he succeeded in uniting and leading almost the entire world, including a considerable portion of the Arab world.

It only remains to be hoped that when the time comes, the United States will not stop before toppling the regime of the tyrant from Baghdad, and that it will remove this man who is endangering world peace.

The second point: The Palestinians, with the PLO in the lead, are again showing their historic short vision in gambling on the wrong horse once more. For years, they have been nurtured by colossal budgets provided by Riyad, Kuwait, and the rest of the Gulf emirates. Supporting the Baghdad pirate, whose rule expectancy is limited, they are spitting into the well from which they had drunk. Chronic losers, the Palestinians are doomed to lose this time, too.

And the third point is a glance into ourselves, with praise for Shamir and Arens for keeping Israel's position in this unfinished drama at a low profile, at the same time taking the necessary measures for our defense and security. A special kudo goes to Arens for his composure despite the turbulent atmosphere and for his welcome attempt to calm the raging tempers and reduce the public tension without concealing the potential hazard inherent in Baghdad's threats.

But both Shamir and Arens have sinned to the vital need to bolster our internal unity. They failed to share with the opposition leaders the crucial information on the situation and on the steps already taken. It is still not too late for that.

Iraq Ability To Strike Country Said 'Limited'

TA1008120090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Aug 90 pp A1, 6

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Iraq's Ability to Hit Us Is Limited"]

[Text] The Iraqi threat persists and one should continue to view it seriously. However, the situation of Israel and its citizens has improved compared to what it was 24 or 48 hours ago.

The first reason is because Iraq can no longer surprise Israel and its citizens with an unexpected strike. Second, because the Arab summit has begun and Saddam Husayn is probably going to await its results before deciding on his next move. Third, because at the moment there are no indications that Saddam Husayn is getting ready to make good on his threat.

Another fact worth attention is that at the moment there is no question of an all-out war between Israel and Iraq. All signs show that Saddam Husayn is talking about a limited attack on Israel with surface-to-surface missiles and an air strike.

He may try to settle his "outstanding debt" with Israel for the bombing of his nuclear reactor nine years ago by trying to bomb the reactor in Dimona. He may also try to bomb populated areas. In both cases, his ability to harm Israel would be limited. His missiles are not equipped with chemical warheads, and the Israeli Air Force can contain his jet fighters with missiles and interceptors.

In contrast, Israel can inflict serious damage on Iraq's economy and military potential. Saddam Husayn is aware of it and, consequently, he will presumably try to hit deep in Israeli territory only if his situation is such that he has got nothing to lose. He is already stuck in a corner, but his situation is not yet desperate.

In this state of affairs Israel still has enough time to go ahead and thoroughly prepare the civilian rear for the eventuality of an attack and to improve its military potential to counter Iraq.

Israel's strategic objective has been and remains not to allow Saddam Husayn to drag it into an active involvement in the Gulf conflict. That is why Israel will apparently not carry out a preemptive strike, as long as it does

not have concrete and clear reasons to hit Iraq. To that end the Israeli leadership will need nerves of steel and excellent intelligence and early warning. It seems that at least where the latter is concerned the Israeli Army is doing its best to provide the political level all the data it needs in the present situation.

Commentary Views New Direction for Peace Process

TA1608090490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
16 Aug 90 p A2

[Commentary by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Despite U.S. declarations about active military cooperation between the United States and the Arab states in the face of the Iraqi threat, it is still too early to eulogize Israel's strategic value for the West.

The West has suddenly learned that terrorism is threatening to become routine practice for rulers such as the Iraqi tyrant. Even the low profile being maintained currently by Israel, at the United States' request, cannot wipe out its contribution to the elimination of the tyrant of Baghdad's nuclear capability.

If there is any reason for concern, it is to be found in the policy the United States is undertaking on publicity over the crisis, even if it is understandable. There is no doubt that the leaders in Washington know that as long as Israel is strong they have someone to depend on. But, as will be recalled, the axiom on policy is: If it did not get any publicity in the media, it might as well not have taken place!

When the crisis passes, the U.S. Administration will once again be free to present Israel as it wishes. That is the reason that now perhaps is time for original and daring political thinking. The Gulf crisis might open up two new directions for a breakthrough in the peace process:

1. The coopting of Syria into peace efforts in the region, if it joins the Western struggle against Iraq, will be an issue which the United States will raise for the agenda, and it is preferable for it to find us ready with the suitable response.

In 1985, Edgar Bronfman [chairman of the World Zionist Organization] carried a secret message from Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to Mikhail Gorbachev about Israel's readiness to reach a settlement with the Syrians, which included a staged withdrawal from the Golan Heights, its transfer to Syrian sovereignty, and its complete demilitarization. In return, the Russians were asked to recognize Israel, open their gates to Jewish exodus to Israel, and to join the Americans in providing guarantees for the security and integrity of Israel. Peres' opening proposals will certainly come up for discussion again next month in Foreign Minister David Levi's planned meeting with his Soviet counterpart in New York.

2. The Palestinian problem has not been dropped from the agenda. There is no doubt, however, that the popularity of the positions adopted by the PLO have been eroded to a large extent, not only in the West, but also in Cairo. The Egyptians are the only ones—unlike the Syrians, Iraqis, and Jordanians—who do not have a power base in the territories. Israeli thinking in the right direction could bring a positive turnabout in the peace process.

Likud Said To Blame for Husayn Pro-Iraq Stance

TA1708123590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Aug 90 p B1

[Commentary by A. Schweitzer: "Jordan—the Link That Broke"]

[Text] Instead of waving an accusing finger at Sharif Husayn, the king of Jordan, as he has recently instructed that he be addressed, Israeli statesmen would have done better to flog themselves for their sins. I call Messrs. Yitzhaq Shamir and Ari'el Sharon statesmen—and I picked them as the most outstanding of the incumbent leaders—for lack of a better term to describe their jobs, but I realize it is a gross exaggeration.

There were times when statesmen who really deserved that appellation were able to value the Jordanian link correctly. Since Ben-Gurion's times through the ascent of the Likud to power, Israel regarded Jordan at times not as an enemy and at other times as a tacit ally. The link with Jordan was often conceived of as one between the strong and the weak. In simple language, Jordan was thought of as an Israeli satellite. What was not properly acknowledged was Jordan's role in the general framework of Israel's territorial defense. Now state witnesses Shamir, Arens, Levi, and everyone else from the Likud's top echelon—who only yesterday dismissed Jordan's existence as a country entitled to its own independence—rise publicly and loudly to wish it stability and its monarch a long life.

Why are they doing that? Our heroes, whose ideology has always been more developed than their political savoir faire, have discovered that if Jordan falls into Saddam Husayn's hands, it will create a big hole in the security belt with which Israel wishes to gird itself. Not only will this be a wide hole, but its very creation could serve as a pretext for what our high and mighty talkers call an Israeli operation—read: a massive Israeli Army operation. One could question the value of the declaration, unless it is viewed as a modest Israeli contribution to stopping Iraq from taking over Jordan and certainly from turning that situation into a permanent one, because then we can expect the Army to intervene and drive away the invaders. This will only add several hundred thousand Arabs who are not completely ecstatic about Israeli rule to the 1.5 million who have already had the good fortune to enjoy it. What then?

The Likud alone should be credited with severing the link with Jordan, which warrants the adjective historic,

if judged by length alone—40 years, more or less. Likud faithful have always opposed the Hashemite dynasty. In the latest versions of their credo they even deprived Husayn of his right to rule over his country: It is Palestine, they asserted. The one who primarily responsible for the final disengagement with Israel was Prime Minister Shamir, who did so by bringing about the revocation of the London accord between Peres and Husayn. That corroborated the monarch's feeling that Israel was determined to disregard any common interest with Jordan and that it was actually throwing him to the PLO dogs. He was therefore forced to preempt that move and cede to the PLO the so-called "representation of the Palestinian issue," and to seek an alternative prop in lieu of Israel. That is how, thanks to Shamir and others, he reached Saddam Husayn.

If there were in Israel under the rule of the national camp [Likud election slogan] someone of stature who could issue even a solitary cry in the wilderness and warn against the dangers involved in ostracizing the Jordanian king and leaving him to the mercy of Saddam (or al-Asad) as far as state security is concerned, the damage could perhaps have been undone. Israel, however, had made its mind—and this is the responsibility of the fools from the Likud and the space cadets from the Alignment and the left-wing alike—and had decided to prefer the PLO as an interlocutor. It is immaterial whether the PLO establishes its reign east or west of the Jordan River. The important thing is that Husayn's career is over and that once Israel so decided, it actually finished Husayn off. There was only one way to remedy that folly: Once Israel chose the PLO over Jordan, it had to seek a settlement with it (just as sought and ultimately reached a settlement with Jordan, as manifested in the de facto peace along the country's longest border). But Israel did just the opposite and is bound to pay the price.

One more comment, if you please, on a somewhat nostalgic note. Commentators, Knesset members, and even ministers are currently talking—out of either a sense of pity or a desire to warn him—about the many errors King Husayn has committed. But as he has so shrewdly managed to survive thus far, for 40 long years, he must have made fewer mistakes than an average leader in his situation. The only mistake of his worth mentioning was the one he made on 6 June 1967, but even it could not imperil the most important thing, his Kingdom and the Hashemite dynasty, until the Likud wise guys came and pushed his head under the water. Those who did that should at least have the good taste not to gloat over it.

Concern Over Arab Possession of Sophisticated Arms

TA1708081290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Aug 90 p A1

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem are concerned because Arab countries are receiving large quantities of sophisticated weapons in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis. The sources believe that Israel must maintain the gap between it and the Arab states, because when the crisis blows over we might find ourselves facing armies equipped with sophisticated weapons.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu warned yesterday against a change in the military situation in the region. He recalled that Kuwait was equipped with sophisticated arms, which have now fallen into Iraq's stockpile and are now being used against the West. [passage omitted]

Arab Groups in Territories React to Invasion

Muslim Groups Denounce Iraq

JN1008111990 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Jordan have denounced the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait. Our correspondent in the north, Muhammad Sharif, says the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Jordan issued a statement to this effect yesterday. The AL-SIRAT magazine, mouthpiece of the Islamic movement in Israel, received copies of the statement by facsimile.

Meanwhile, the Islamic [Resistance] Movement-Hamas in Gaza denounced the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait. Our correspondent says Hamas members wrote graffiti to this effect in Gaza. A number of Gazans told our correspondent that Hamas' denouncement of the Iraqi invasion and its support for the amir of Kuwait are attributed to the financial assistance the movement received from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In a related development, the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front has over the past few days distributed leaflets in Gaza expressing support for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Hamas Calls for Anti-U.S. Holy War

TA1308135790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement in the territories, has put out a pamphlet calling for the Arab world to unite in a holy war against the United States. In the organization's first public expression of support for Iraq, Hamas calls on Palestinians to end the dialogue with the United States which, in its words, has mobilized the West against the Arab world.

As we hear in this report from Mark Weiss, there appears to be growing support for Iraq in the territories:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Palestinians in the territories have welcomed last night's statement by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, linking a possible solution to the Gulf crisis with, among other things, an Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

All this morning's East Jerusalem dailies back the plan. AL- SHA'B declared its support for Iraq and said the proposal includes the restoration of long-lost rights. AL-NAHAR called on Syrian President al-Asad to stand by Saddam Husayn, and not to fight him.

East Jerusalem lawyer, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, also welcomed the Iraqi proposals:

[Abu-Zayyad] I think that this proposal should be taken seriously, because it opens the door in front of a comprehensive settlement for the region. It should not be underestimated, and nobody should make it fool, the proposal [as heard].

[Weiss] There appears to be an increasing popular support in the territories for Iraq, whereas most Israelis see Saddam Husayn as an aggressor and someone who threatens Israel.

[Abu-Zayyad] Well, each one looks from his angle, I think. I can understand the Israelis who see Saddam Husayn as their enemy and as a threat to the Israelis or to Israel. I can understand the disappointment and the frustration of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. I can't understand why the peace camp in Israel blames the Palestinians, who express their emotions with their acts, and they accuse them of damaging the peace process; because there had never been a peace process and there has never been something tactical on the ground.

[Weiss] The PLO's decision to back Iraq in the crisis and oppose the sending of an Arab League force to the Gulf has also been welcomed by Palestinians in the territories. It remains to be seen what the long-term implications of this stand will be for the PLO and the Palestinians, but it is likely that the Gulf states will cut their funding to the PLO. This, in turn, will be felt by the residents of the territories. [end recording]

Muslim Council Condemns Arabs

TA1308142090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The Supreme Muslim Council yesterday criticized Arab leaders who met in Cairo late last week and decided to send military units to support Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The criticism was published by the Supreme Muslim council, the supreme religious body in the West Bank, in a written announcement following a special session held yesterday to discuss the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis.

"The Cairo summit yesterday issued a humiliating communique, in which the hypocritical Arab leaders gave up their own hide," says the Council's announcement in reference to the Arab leaders' support for the U.S. moves and their readiness to dispatch military units to Saudi Arabia.

"Arise and declare your true positions," reads the announcement and exhorts the Muslims "to wipe out the words of Arab infamy written by the latest Arab summit. Tell the Americans that the Islamic land is forbidden to all non-Muslims. Tell the oil merchants that we would rather starve honorably than conduct degrading lives of prosperity and wealth."

Intra-Arab Solution Supported

TA1508165590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] A leaflet on behalf of PLO supporters has been disseminated in Judaea and Samaria expressing support for a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis within an intra-Arab framework. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that to date the PLO supporters have expressed sympathy toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The authors of the leaflet nevertheless condemn the Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian-Moroccan connection, which they maintain helps modern imperialism take over oil resources in the region. They also praise Iraqi strongman Saddam Husayn's two initiatives regarding a simultaneous withdrawal from various areas in the Middle East, and his readiness to make peace with Iran.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that a forum of Arab Knesset members [MK's] was established in the [Druze] village of 'Isfiya to preserve Arab-Jewish coexistence. The initiator of this move is former MK Zaydan 'Atshah.

Palestinians Urge Iraqi Pullout

TA1608062190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] A statement issued by leading Palestinian personalities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday called for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The one-page statement was unsigned, but Palestinian sources involved in drawing it up said it was supported by leading Palestinians associated with all four main factions of the PLO. They included, among others, Faysal al-Husayni and most of the 12 who participated on August 5 in a peace debate with 15 Israel MKs [Knesset Members] in Jerusalem.

The statement rejected what it called "the double standard" involved in the application of UN Security Council resolutions outlawing the occupation of land by force, as shown in the U.S. intervention in the Gulf and its failure to apply force against Israel.

It said "We support the principal that it is not permissible to occupy land by force... We support the PLO position which would include the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait self-determination."

The statement also called on "the international community" to ensure protection for Palestinians working in the Gulf states.

A telephone poll to be published tomorrow, conducted by the Arabic-language weekly AL-NADWA, estimates that 84 percent of West Bank Palestinians consider Saddam Husayn an Arab national hero, but considerably fewer—58 percent—support his invasion of Kuwait and 38 percent oppose it.

The poll conducted among 258 households asked two main questions: What is your opinion of Saddam Husayn? Do you support the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

In answer to other questions, 83 percent supported PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's support of Iraq, 76 percent supported King Husayn of Jordan's support for Iraq, while 93 percent agreed with the statement that the U.S. intervened to protect oil supplies.

Last week AL-NADWA, based in East Jerusalem, published a poll taken among Israeli Arabs in which 69 percent considered Saddam a national hero and 62 percent support his invasion of Kuwait.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, the magazine's publisher, said he considered the West Bank poll significant because it showed that many people who support Saddam do not support the invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Tibi said that one of the drawbacks of the poll was that it was conducted by telephone and therefore did not reach the lowest socio-economic sector of the population which, he said, probably would express even greater support for Saddam Husayn.

Pro-Saddam Demonstrations

TA1608162190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] A demonstration in support of Saddam Husayn was held in the Nabulus casbah today. Hundreds of locals, some of them armed with knives, flew Iraqi and PLO flags and burned the Israeli flag. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the demonstrators were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured by rocks thrown at him near the Erez border crossing point in the northern part of the Gaza Strip today. He was evacuated to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there were minor riots in the Gaza Strip today and that a march in support of Iraq was held in the al-Burayj refugee camp.

Golan Druze Detained

TA1708052490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Five residents of the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights have been detained by police on suspicion of organizing a demonstration in support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Dozens of residents joined in the demonstration and waved the flag of Iraq.

Uprising Command Leaflet

TA1708075190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by Dani Shaqed and David Regev]

[Text] The Unified National Command of the Uprising in the territories yesterday published a special leaflet on the Iraqi crisis under the headline "Leaflet No. 1—the U.S. Invasion of Arab Lands," in which it expresses unequivocal support for Iraq and sharply attacks President Mubarak—"the Arab Traitor, the Godfather of the Camp David Accords"—and calls for the abrogation of the Camp David agreements.

The leaflet also sharply attacks Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf Emirates and justifies the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Sources in the territories pointed out that the leaflet, signed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, speaks for the Palestinians in the territories, while the public statement distributed on Wednesday was not signed and represents only its authors.

Wednesday's statement was drafted after a series of discussions between moderate Palestinian leaders and the leftist leaders in Israel, among them Peace Now.

Peace Now yesterday published a statement expressing its "deep disappointment" with the Palestinian position. It said: "The cooperation between us in recent years was based on our belief that the Palestinian people under the PLO's leadership realized that peace and the implementation of national rights are achieved only through negotiations. We were therefore deeply upset when we learned about the fervent support among the Palestinians for Saddam Husayn and his policy."

The Communist Party in the territories yesterday joined the wave of support for the Iraqi leader. A leaflet disseminated in the Gaza Strip denounced the U.S. invasion, and Gazans were called on to strike at the end of the month and to support Iraq.

Members of the Mujahidin, the military arm of the Islamic Jihad, yesterday scribbled slogans on the walls of the Khan Yunus refugee camp denouncing Saudi Arabia and the United States for their intervention in Kuwait.

Fatah Supporters Divided Over Radwan Abu-'Ayyash

TA1508151690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 90 p 5

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A leaflet expressing support for Radwan Abu-'Ayyash in the face of Faysal al-Husayni's attempts to oust him has recently been circulated in East Jerusalem.

The leaflet attacks Faysal al-Husayni for being an "aristocrat" who, unlike Abu-'Ayyash, has no roots among the common people.

This is the first leaflet of its kind, and it reveals a dispute between the two Fatah supporters, although East Jerusalem Palestinian sources contend that it was forged.

IDF, Spokesmen Coordinate Information Policy

TA1608163990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] A debate was held at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's office today with the participation of the head of the Government Press Office, media advisers including the prime minister's media adviser, and the spokesmen for the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the debate was meant to coordinate Israel's information policy. A representative of the General Staff's Intelligence Branch reviewed the situation in the region. The IDF spokesman pointed out that it is necessary to coordinate the information line because declarations that are not coordinated could cause damage. He believes it should be emphasized that Israel is not involved in the Gulf crisis.

Arrow Missile Tested, Defense Minister Comments

No Decision on Procurement

TA0908135190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Israel carried out the first test of the Arrow antimissile missile an hour ago. It was launched from a site in the country, lifted at a tremendous speed to an elevation many kilometers high, and was destroyed according to plan. The launch was observed by the heads of the defense establishment, Israel Aircraft Industries representatives, and guests from the United States, which finances a large part of the project.

The defense minister said that when the system is completed it will be able to intercept short- and medium-range ballistic missiles. He noted, nonetheless, that so far no final decision has been made on whether Israel will procure the missiles, although that is the intention.

Air Force Commander Major General Avihu Bin-Nun said that the missile constitutes Israel's response to the missiles Iraq has. These reports were filed by our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Meron Tzur.

Further Technical Details

TA0908195990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Report by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky]

[Text] Over the last few days, television and press crews waited at the beach front opposite the Arrow missile's launch base. That secret, too, seems to have leaked, but this time it appears that no special effort was made to conceal it. Was there a link between the launch and the Persian Gulf crisis? Well, the launching of the Arrow had been planned many months in advance and was scheduled for July or early August. Technical hitches prevented the launch before today, but the defense establishment is not too sorry about that delay.

The Arrow was launched at 1535 [1235 GMT], marking the end of the first stage of its development, and headed seaward. What you can see is part of the booster, which plunged to the seawater. The missile exploded over the waters. In a real test, the missile is supposed to encounter another missile in flight and hit it.

The project involves approximately $800 million, most of which will be defrayed by the United States. The success in developing the missile will constitute a technological breakthrough on an international scale. In fact, the Israel Aircraft Industries has been developing technologies that do not exist even in U.S. research laboratories.

This is the launch base. It seems that some people came to the beach this morning to work while others came to have a good time. It should be remembered that this missile will become operational only in another five years. Israel plans to purchase the missile, but involved is an extremely high financial expense and the source for that kind of money is unclear.

The launch of the Arrow missile is similar to the firing of a rifle bullet, which is supposed to hit another bullet in mid-trajectory.

The Arrow system will be based on an acquisition and tracking radar, one which will give an alert immediately upon the launch of the missile from a great distance. After locating the missile, the Arrow will be launched at the missile moving toward Israel at a distance of dozens of kilometers and at great heights. The Arrow's velocity will be extremely high, as it is expected to overcome fast-moving missiles, not aircraft. Its velocity is 10 times the speed of sound, equal to the velocity of the missiles it is supposed to counter. If the Arrow fails to hit the first time, the launcher will have sufficient time to launch a second missile. There is a 90-percent chance that the enemy missile will be destroyed en route to Israel. The ultimate goal of the Arrow system is to contend with a large number of missiles launched at several targets in Israel, as one cannot expect only one missile to be launched.

Missile, U.S. Role Viewed

TA1008105290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Aug 90 p A3

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Until the Arrow is Developed the IDF Does Not Have an Operational Answer to Ballistic Missiles"]

[Text] Yesterday's successful first test launch of the Arrow missile gives the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] an impressive head start on the long road toward developing the first system in the world to intercept ballistic missiles. The launch was only the first step in the long and difficult process which is to last about five years and is aimed at becoming a far-reaching technological breakthrough.

The Arrow launch was aimed at testing only the launching mechanism, the missile's engine, and part of the computer system's functioning. It was not aimed at hitting any target and was ordered to self-destruct after a trajectory of about one minute.

Although the timing of the launch was not influenced by events in the Gulf and was postponed time after time in the past month, the impression created was that it was a message by Israel and the United States (the boss of SDI, under which the missile is being developed) to Saddam Husayn during such a tense period. Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and Saddam Husayn's threats to Israel and other countries in the region have given an additional perspective to the success of the test launch.

Although it is, as the defense minister said yesterday, only the earliest stage of the development process, the U.S. Administration rushed ahead to make political capital out of the success of the launch. The IAI drafted the wording of the press release and handed it over to the SDI command for the album it is to issue. At that stage, however, the White House entered the picture and President Bush's closest advisers personally worked on the wording of the release to the media, stressing the system's strategic future value.

It seems that the coincidence of the latest Middle East events and the timing of the launch will increase the support of the U.S. Congress, which is supposed to decide on the amount of U.S. funding for the second stage of the missile's development.

The Arrow project has a three-stage plan. The first, which is supposed to be completed in the coming months, will end after the Arrow will be launched at another missile and intercept it; this is planned for next month. The cost of the first development stage is put at $158 million, 80 percent of which is U.S. funded.

The cost of the second stage is estimated at some $250 million, and it is still not clear what percentage of that will be American funded. White House excitement over the successful launch and the use it quickly made of it is evidence that pressure will be exerted on Congress to increase funding.

The IAI estimates that the total cost of development will reach some $1.25 billion, and the IAI hopes that Israel's contribution will not exceed $750 million.

The missile launched yesterday was one-phased while the final version will be dual-phased with a velocity of more than ten times the speed of sound. In addition, the missile will have unprecedented maneuverability in relation to any other missile—some 200-G.

The Arrow system will be made up of a sophisticated radar with long-range detection capability, and the missile's launchers will fire two missiles simultaneously in order to assure the best possible chances of hitting the hostile missile. According to IAI engineers' estimates, the Arrow's destructive capability will be over 90 percent, a percentage currently not existing in the air defense system.

It has lately been learned that the Israel Military Industries and the manufacturers of the U.S. Patriot missile have an agreement aimed at achieving joint development of a defense system against dual-phase missiles. Within that framework the Arrow is meant to shoot down hostile long-range ballistic missiles while the Patriot will intercept the short-range missiles which penetrate the Arrow missile shield.

The defense establishment stresses that until the development process is completed in five years, the IDF [(Israel Defense Forces] will not have an operational answer to the Iraqi missile threat.

The IDF is aware of the problem that might be created when it is decided to procure the Arrow because of the high cost of the system, estimated at billions of dollars. Nevertheless, the defense minister decided that the completion of the development is of the highest priority.

Air Force Elements on Importance of Patriot

TA1008142690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by military affairs correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Senior Air Force elements said yesterday that it is vital to reopen the debate on the Air Force's request to receive, purchase, or lease the U.S.-made Patriot missile batteries. In accordance with the latest decision, the system will not be purchased because of the budget shortage.

"The Iraqi threat has not changed; it has merely become more tangible, and we must be capable of providing a qualitative response to that threat," a senior Air Force officer said yesterday.

"The Patriot is not another item in a toy store," added the senior officer. "The last week's events have again showed the need to possess the Patriot. Contrary to the Arrow project, the Patriot is a proven system which has completed its development stages. It can down surface-to-surface missiles to a certain extent, and it has an excellent capability vis-a-vis aircraft."

"It is true that the purchase of this system depends on our priorities, but the recent events have again underscored the fact that there is a certain lack for which we can compensate by taking certain actions. The significance of the events in the Gulf is that at present we must

answer threats through warfare means which we do not possess—and which we should and can obtain at once."

The senior officer added: "The decision not to purchase the Patriot, as well as the budget cuts, subjugate the future of the Air Force and put an end to some very important projects.

Shamir on Israeli-Romanian Relations

AU1408110890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0832 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Yitzak Shamir: "I don't see why we should not develop the relations with Romania more"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 14/8/90—I think the friendly relations should be developed in every respect, in all economic and cultural domains, stated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Shamir in an interview with the envoy of the daily ROMANIA LIBERA, Crina Sirbu, answering a question about the Romanian-Israeli relations.

"I don't see why we should have limits in the development of our relations" the prime minister added, for "there are no differences of views, no conflicting interests between Romania and Israel".

"We will be very pleased to meet your country's leader" Mr. Shamir stated answering a question about a possible meeting with Romania's president.

Agriculture Ministry Publishes Ad on Water Issue

TA1008115490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 90 p 9

[Advertisement "presented as a public service by the Ministry of Agriculture" entitled: "Israel—The Land and Its Significance;" also published in the 10 August edition of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV and YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew]

[Text]

The Question of Water—Some Dry Facts

Water is an extremely scarce resource in Israel. In fact, it is in many ways the limiting factor on the country's future development.

At present all the known sources of supply are being almost fully exploited—and in some cases even dangerously **overexploited.**

The country's natural water supply originates from three major sources:
—The Jordan River catchment area
—Two major underground water-bearing geological structures called **aquifers**
1. The Mountain (or Yarqon-Tanninim) Aquifer
2. The Coastal Aquifer

The latter two sources constitute subterranean reservoirs, containing approximately 60 per cent of Israel's water supply. The waters they store are affected, directly and indirectly, by civilian and ecological activity in Judaea and Samaria—as to both the quantity and the quality of the water.

The Physical Implications

—Excessive pumping or uncontrolled sewage and waste disposal in Judaea and Samaria are liable to cause serious depletion, salination and pollution of the aquifers. Relinquishing the western slopes of the Judaean and Samarian hills will create a situation in which the fate of the national water supply could be determined by the actions of whatever Arab authority controlled the evacuated areas after withdrawal.

—Any exploitation or pollution of the aquifers (particularly the Mountain Aquifer) by the **Palestinian** authorities would, by the principle of connecting vessels, have an immediate and significantly detrimental effect on the **Israeli** water supply. Given the present critical scarcity of water in Israel, even with **all** the available sources of supply at her disposal, withdrawal and the relinquishing of control of a substantial portion of these sources could leave the country in a potentially desperate plight.

—It is important to note that the mortal dangers implicit in such a situation could arise, even **without** there being any malicious intent on the part of the Arabs. They could result with equal severity from simple municipal mismanagement, poor planning, lack of knowledge or plain neglect. However, whatever the reasons may be, Israel might easily find herself facing irreparable damage to the supply of one of her most vital strategic sources

—a situation which would, in a most tangible way, endanger her continued existence.

The Political Implications

—The crucial issue to be considered in any political solution regarding the future of Judea and Samaria is the question of **who will have final authority in resolving issues in dispute.** This is especially acute in the case of water resources, as any proposed Palestinian political entity, whether sovereign or autonomous, would have no water resources at all, other than those upon which Israel is so critically dependent for her day-to-day survival.

—This intense interdependence and the scarcity of water supplies accentuate even more the severity of the problem of **authority.** For under such conditions, even if some sincere and trustworthy Palestinian party could be found with whom an agreement could be made, the problem of allocating such a vital and scarce shared resource would make disputes almost inevitable. —Who would have the final say as to where drilling sites were to be located? How much water is to be pumped from them without irreparably damaging the aquifers? Where potentially polluting industries

should or should not be established within the evacuated areas? In cases of disagreement, whose will is to be imposed on whom? How could Israel secure its vital interests without imposing impossible restrictions on the Palestinians' freedom to resolve their own domestic issues? Conversely, how could the Palestinians be given freedom to safeguard their legitimate domestic issues, without gravely endangering Israel's vital interests? —Moreover, even if all disputes were resolved, however unlikely such a possibility may be, and some fragile compromise were to be reached, Israel's future would be completely dependent upon the honoring of that compromise agreement not only by the Palestinian party who **signed** it, but also by any **successor** who may come to power in the future. Clearly, the many extreme and militant elements, who undoubtedly oppose **any** agreement with Israel, together with the enormous socio-economic difficulties that any Palestinian administration would face, make very likely the overthrow of the original Palestinian regime and its replacement by some other regime, far more hostile to Israel. Such a successor regime would, of course, be highly unlikely to honor the compromise so vital to Israel's continued existence, especially as it would constitute the very justification for the overthrow of its predecessor!!! — Finally, relinquishing control over Judea and Samaria will leave Israel without any legal, moral or practical means to prevent the repatriation of almost a million Palestinians resident in refugee camps in surrounding Arab countries, whether by their own free will or by forcible "transfer" by their reluctant Arab "hosts." Such a wave of poverty-stricken humanity would generate an impossible strain on the already overextended water supply and inadequate sewerage system, endangering even further Israel's vulnerable and fragile source of life. —It is difficult to conceive of any political solution consistent with Israel's survival that does not involve complete, continued Israeli control of the water and sewerage systems, and of the associated infrastructure, including the power supply and road network, essential to their operation, maintenance and accessibility.

This is an important point to ponder for those advocates of Israeli concessions who believe the Jews should have a viable independent state in their ancient homeland. It is important to realize that the claim to continued Israeli control over Judea and Samaria is not based on extremist fanaticism or religious mysticism but on a rational, healthy and reasonable survival instinct.

Gaza Press Agency Closed for 'Security Reasons'

TA1508090990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The military government in Gaza this morning closed a press agency belonging to Muhammad Mashwaki, a journalist for the AL-SHA'B newspaper. The order said the move was taken for security reasons and would last one year.

King Talks to Reporters After Bush Meeting

JN1608194390 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Report on remarks to reporters made by King Husayn following meeting with President Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine on 16 August—individual reporters not identified]

[Text] His majesty the king held talks this evening with U.S. President George Bush in Maine State on ways and means of containing and solving the Gulf crisis. His majesty spoke after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] First of all, we clarified a few points. I came to the United States with the purpose of seeing and meeting personally an old friend of mine, President Bush. I have had the opportunity to do so today. We have had a very frank, open, candid discussion. I believe you understand where we both stand, and at the same time I am leaving with a clearer idea of what the president's thinking is, and I feel very happy with the warmth with which I was received and also with the opportunity that I had to have this meeting at this very, very crucial time.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, did you [words indistinct] the port of al-'Aqabah to the Iraqis? Will you abide by the UN sanctions now against the Iraqis?

[Husayn] I am not suggesting that we have altered our position at all in this regard. The Government of Jordan stated very clearly at the very outset following the Security Council resolution that it regarded these mandatory sanctions and measures as ones that the Government of Jordan would respect, and this has been the case. So this is nothing new to talk about now.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, did you bring a message from Saddam Husayn, and if so, what did it say?

[Husayn] I did not bring any message. I am not talking on behalf of anyone in the area, but for myself as a person who has been in a position of responsibility over the last 38 years, and with the interest and concern that this crisis hopefully will begin to de-escalate, and we might find solutions to the many problems that are there now. I am as concerned as any within the area. I have tried my utmost to see what could be done initially within an Arab context. And I will continue to do my best to bring a resolution of this problem.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, is a diplomatic solution any closer as a result of this meeting? Did you make any progress or hear anything from the president that suggested that a diplomatic solution might be closer?

[Husayn] I just had the chance to hear the President and have his point of view, which I appreciate very much indeed. It was impossible to communicate otherwise.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Husayn] Yes, we just...there is nothing [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Why is food getting through the port of al-'Aqabah, Your Majesty? If you are in favor of mandatory sanctions, why is food getting through the port?

[Husayn] We are reaching the United Nations to find out exactly what these sanctions mean. This is what the government is doing at this stage and I believe that there are certain categories or areas where the situation is unclear but we are [words indistinct].

[Reporter] And you consider food to be one of those exemptions then?

[Husayn] This is something we are trying to clarify with the [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you have any reason for hope at all, sir?

[Husayn] I suppose one has to have hope. Without hope you cannot get anywhere. When the dangers are such, it's unthinkable to contemplate the idea of giving up and not trying one's best to resolve this problem to the satisfaction of all and hopefully for a better [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Will you go back to Baghdad?

[Husayn] I don't know. I have no plans to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Where will you go from here?

[Husayn] Back to my country.

[Reporter] So, Your Majesty, you acknowledge that there are some shipments now passing through the port of al-'Aqabah?

[Husayn] There are no shipments at the moment, as far as I know.

[Reporter] Might you close that port altogether, sir, if the United Nations [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] It is our only outlet to the sea. It's our only outlet to the sea and to the rest of the world. It's our port. We receive everything that we import into Jordan. We export a lot of our own phosphates and other things.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] shipments to Iraq or from Iraq?

[Husayn] What?

[reporter] Might you close the port to Iraqi commerce?

[Husayn] Sir, this is a question of detail. The government is dealing with it. I told you that we are [word indistinct] to this UN Security Council sanctions and we regret very much indeed that the situation has [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you said you have a better understanding now of what the President's viewpoint is. Did you express your viewpoint; did you ask for any

understanding about the kind of economic situation, political situation you are in and what did ...? [question incomplete as heard]

[Husayn] Very frankly and honestly, we are passing through a very difficult economic situation in Jordan and we are affected probably much more than any in this regard, but this, as I expressed to the President before I arrived here was the least of my worries at the moment. I was concerned with the problem that all of us are worried about, both in my part of the world and here and everywhere in the world and that is what I wanted to talk about.

[Reporter] Did you offer [words indistinct] to help for Jordan by the [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I did not discuss this. Thank you very much indeed.

King Returns, Briefs Ministers on Talks

JN1708115790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this morning after a two-day working visit to the United States during which he met with U.S. President George Bush and exchanged views with him over the Gulf crisis.

His majesty the king explained Jordan's comprehensive view on this dangerous crisis and its repercussions on the security and stability of the region and the world. He reaffirmed Jordan's concern and determination to continue action to prevent the deterioration of the situation and to search for the appropriate means to stop the escalation of this crisis by cooperating with various influential parties.

The U.S. President explained the U.S. position and its various dimensions regarding the crisis and the reasons that led his government to send its troops to the Arabian Gulf region. He voiced his known position on the crisis and requirements for solving it.

The U.S. President expressed his understanding for Jordan's position and His Majesty King Husayn's positive efforts to find a solution to the dispute in a peaceful way and to avert a real catastrophe in the region if a military confrontation takes place. The U.S. President expressed his support for any efforts that might contribute toward solving the conflict peacefully.

The bilateral meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Bush was followed by an expanded meeting attended on the Jordanian side by prime minister, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and deputy prime minister and foreign minister. It was attended on the U.S. side by the secretary of state, the White House chief of staff, the national security adviser, a number of ranking aides, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Upon arrival at home, his majesty was greeted by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-Husayn, His Highness Prince 'Ali Ibn-Husayn, the speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives, the deputy prime minister and minister of interior, the cabinet, chief of the general staff, and ranking civil and military officials.

Immediately after his arrival, His Majesty King Husayn briefed the Council of Ministers on his talks in the United States with President George Bush, affirming that all efforts were made to contain the crisis and stop its escalation.

King Said To Risk Uprising if Sanctions Applied

NC1608124290 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Oct 16 (AFP)—King Husayn of Jordan would risk a people's uprising if he bowed to international pressure and applied United Nations sanctions against his ally and key trading partner Iraq, political circles here said Thursday.

King Husayn, who was holding crucial talks on the Gulf crisis with U.S. President George Bush later Thursday, appeared trapped between international pressure to enforce sanctions and the threat of an uprising, with MPs urging "total" support for Iraq.

As demonstrators planned more protests for Thursday, it emerged that MPs said during a secret overnight meeting that they preferred death to the "shame" of abandoning Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn by closing his trade artery through the port of al-'Aqabah.

Jordanian public opinion is running strongly in favour of the Iraqi president, and political circles hold that the political effects of an embargo would be more serious than the forecast economic damage.

Any financial compensation that King Husayn might be able to negotiate during his current visit to the United States would not be enough to preserve stability in the kingdom in the face of popular rejection of sanctions.

In his talks in Maine with President Bush, the king was faced with having to find an outcome satisfactory to international opinion while taking account of pro-Iraqi sentiment in the street, and political sources here said that this balancing act looked unsustainable.

Demonstrations in support of Iraq and hostile to the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia were continuing in Jordan.

On Wednesday 25,000 people demonstrated at al-Zarqa 25 kilometres (15 miles) east of Amman, and more than 1,000 people protested at Jarash 48 kilometres (30 miles) north of Amman and at Wadi al-Sir in the western outskirts of Amman.

Other demonstrations were planned in various parts of the country for Thursday.

Meanwhile at official level, members of parliament and of the government met in a session behind closed doors during the night to discuss the situation and the effects of application of the embargo, officials who attended the meeting said.

Most of the members of parliament argued in favour of "total support" for Iraq and said that they preferred "death to the shame" of abandoning President Saddam Husayn, the sources said.

A Jordanian intellectual said that under such circumstances Jordan was heading "towards collective suicide, death without honour".

As it had "neither money, nor oil, nor sophisticated weapons with which to defend itself, the Jordanian people has only its nationalism, which is expressed through rejection of of the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf, and by its support for Iraq," he said.

Whether or not Jordan decides to enforce sanctions, its economy will be damaged. Revenue has already been slashed by 1.15 billion dollars a year in the form of 800 million dollars sent home by Jordanians working in the Gulf, with 35 percent of it coming from Jordanians working in Kuwait, and Arab aid of about 350 million dollars a year.

Tourism, which was expected to become the second biggest earner of foreign currency in 1990, is bound to suffer from the situation. Already package holiday operators have begun to cancel block bookings, particularly with hotels in al-'Aqabah, ahead of the main tourist season which begins in September.

Jordan does most of its trade with Iraq, which supplies 95 percent of oil requirements. Many major Jordanian companies have links with Iraq, and most of the fruit and vegetables grown in the Jordan valley are exported to Iraq.

Egyptians Arrive From Iraq and Kuwait

NC1608165690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 16 Aug (MENA)—Some 6,555 Egyptians who were working in Iraq and Kuwait arrived in Jordan from Iraq and Saudi Arabia between yesterday morning and dawn today.

Yahya al-Ramlawi, consular at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman, told a MENA correspondent that three large ferryboats are operating several trips a day to transport the Egyptians from al-'Aqabah to the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi'. He added that the boats—al-'Arish, Husayn, and Farah—can transfer 5,000 passengers on their regular daily trips.

Al-Ramlawi said that large numbers of Egyptians who were working in Iraq and Kuwait are expected to arrive in Jordan over the next few days and that the Egyptian Embassy in Amman is ready to welcome them and resolve any problems facing them until they depart to Egypt.

Al-Ramlawi added that Egypt is currently in touch with Jordanian officials with the aim of operating a line of Egyptian buses to transport the returning Egyptians from the Jordanian-Saudi and Jordanian-Iraqi borders to Egypt.

Workers March to U.S. Embassy, Deliver Memo

JN1708095490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Aug 90 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—At noon yesterday laborers staged a march from the headquarters of the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU] to the U.S. Embassy to condemn U.S. policy in the Arab region.

Representatives of 17 trade unions took part in the march, which was led by GFTU Secretary General 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and a number of unionists and trade union heads.

Participants raised pictures of His Majesty King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and banners condemning the U.S. military presence on the sacred Arab lands.

They rejected the arrogant policy pursued by the United States to bring the region to its knees with a view to looting its wealth forever.

The protesters urged the United States to learn from its previous invasions of many areas in the world, which all ended in failure and defeat.

At the end of the march, Mr. Khaddam handed the embassy a memorandum of condemnation of U.S. policy in the region and stressed that Jordan's laborers support Iraq in defending itself and the Arab nation

The march dispersed calmly after accomplishing its mission; no damage was done.

Parliament Asks Speaker To Cable Iranian Leaders

JN1608111390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The House of Representatives held a closed meeting yesterday under Speaker Sulayman 'Arar. Mr. Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and a number of ministers attended.

Following the meeting, Mr. 'Arar stated that the House listened to a comprehensive review from the government on the measures it has taken to face the current developments in the Arabian Gulf crisis and its preparedness

in the field of defense and the supply and economic conditions. He said these conditions are, thank God, reassuring.

He also said the House has asked the Government to quickly train the people in the Popular Army and in other centers.

The House of Representatives speaker referred to the follow-up committee which the House has set up to study the Gulf developments, and said: The committee has taken a number of decisions, including sending memos and a delegation to other parliaments, to explain Iraq's fair position and the position on the threats which cause tension in the region.

'Arar added that the House of Representatives has asked him to send a cable to the Iranian and Iraqi leaders concerning the Iraqi initiative which was announced yesterday. He expressed the hope that this initiative will end the dispute between the two brotherly and neighboring countries.

Iraq Welcomes Return of Foreign Workers

JN1208134990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Aug 90 p 24

[Text] Informed sources have told AL-RA'Y that Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Latif, commander of the al-Qadisiyah border post complex [mujamma'], in the Iraqi area known as Tirbil, has officially informed Jordan that Iraq welcomes Jordanian brothers and all Arabs who have job contracts, residence permits, or those working in companies that operate in Iraq or Kuwait, to return to their usual jobs.

This came in response to many queries by Jordanian and Arab citizens who work in Iraq or Kuwait, after a rumor that the Iraqi authorities are preventing them from entering Iraq or Kuwait.

Iraq yesterday allowed nine U.S. and French individuals to cross into Jordan through al-Ruwayshid from Iraq and Kuwait, in addition to other nationalities who were crossing as usual.

It is to be noted that no foreigner, particularly U.S. or British nationals, crossed into Jordan through al-Ruwayshid the day before yesterday.

EC Delegation Arrives For Talks on Gulf Crisis

JN1608135290 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis arrived in Amman today at the head of the European Community delegation, seeking a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

The delegation, comprising the Italian foreign minister, Irish Foreign Minister Gerald Collins, and Luxembourg Foreign Ministry Secretary of State Georges Wohlfart, are on a two-day mission to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

Members of the European Community delegation will meet today with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, to discuss the latest developments in the area.

In an arrival statement, the Irish foreign minister said: [Begin recording] The purpose of the visit is manifold, if you like. We are here because of the importance of the region, and because of the importance of the part that Jordan is playing. And we hope to have consultations with the crown prince and the authorities here on the situation as it is developing. [end recording]

Meets With Crown Prince

JN1708083390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has received the foreign ministers of Italy and Ireland and the deputy foreign minister of Luxembourg. More in the following report by our political affairs correspondent Hani al-Badri:

[Begin recording] [Al-Badri] His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, has outlined Jordan's consistent, principled position on the Gulf crisis, noting that Jordan is pursuing efforts to find a comprehensive political solution to the crisis and other regional problems.

The delegation, made up of the foreign ministers of Italy and Ireland and the deputy foreign minister of Luxembourg, was told of the economic impact on Jordan of the enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution No. 661 calling for economic sanctions on Iraq. The crown prince warned that rather than solving the crisis, military escalation would exacerbate it.

The foreign minister of Italy, who heads the delegation, expressed the hope that Jordan's persistent efforts would bring about a peaceful resolution of the crisis. He pointed out that the European community understands Jordan's position and its pivotal role in the region. Present at the meeting were the information minister and acting foreign minister, the industry and trade minister, the planning minister, the Central Bank governor, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Jordan's ambassador to Belgium and the EC, and the Italian and Spanish ambassadors and the EC acting charge d'affaires in Amman.

The EC delegation held a news conference at the Hashemite Royal Court in which they stressed the EC's appreciation of Jordan's position and key role in the region. The delegation's head, Italy's Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, said the European people are keeping a close watch on the situation in the region, hoping the Gulf crisis will be resolved peacefully.

On the delegation's Jordan visit, Mr. de Michelis said:

[De Michelis] We are here first of all to explain the position of the European Community on the Middle East crisis at this stage. Second, we are in Amman to state very clearly the importance we give to the Jordanian position and the fact that [word indistinct] understand the specificity of the Jordanian situation. We are ready to [words indistinct] with them to help them in a very delicate world trying to find a political solution to the crisis, although if Jordan has taken a special position in the framework of Arab [word indistinct] Arab summit will be [word indistinct] as we have said [words indistinct] a specific situation of Jordan from both external and internal viewpoints. Third, for expressing on behalf of the community [words indistinct] our willingness to enhance and improve economic cooperation with Jordan in the framework of the economic consequences of this country's implementation of the embargo decided by the United Nations Security Council [word indistinct] Resolution No. 661. And fourth, we will be discussing with the Jordanian Government the possible peaceful solution of this crisis. We have had a very deep, useful, and constructive discussion with the crown prince and members of the Jordanian Government and we have agreed with the Jordanian representatives on the fact that it is necessary to do everything possible to find ways for negotiating a political and diplomatic solution to the crisis. [Al-Badri] The delegation's leader lauded His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis without military escalation in the region, which threatens the stability of the whole region. He noted His Majesty King Husayn's Washington visit and his meeting with President Bush, emphasizing that it illustrates Jordan's farsighted belief that it is important that channels of dialogue and consultation with the world remain open.

[De Michelis] The crown prince said to us that the Jordanian feeling is that there is a small but existing space for diplomatic maneuver creating the possibility of [word indistinct] dialogue between Arabs and that [word indistinct] King Husayn will try to convince the American President to allow it to go in this direction. But, as Europeans, we are not against it, but we have repeated we are not against it—clearly in the framework of Resolution 642. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Leaves Amman 16 Aug

JN1708083890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The EC foreign ministers delegation left Amman this evening. The delegation was seen off by Ibrahim 'Izz-al-din, information minister and acting foreign minister.

PRC Economic Vice Minister Visits Amman

$10 Million Loan Approved

JN1308171490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug

[Text] In Amman, Planning Minister Dr. Khalid Amin 'Abdallah today discussed trade relations between Jordan and China with Li Lanqing, vice minister in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. They also discussed ways to bolster these relations. It was agreed that the Chinese Government will provide a new $10-million loan to Jordan to finance a number of development projects within the priorities of the new Jordanian economic policy. Issues pertaining to the Jordanian-Chinese joint committee were also discussed. The committee's agenda and date of its meeting will be fixed later.

Meets With Crown Prince 15 Aug

JN1508155290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 15 Aug (PETRA)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, this morning received at the Royal Court Li Lanqing, vice minister at the PRC Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, who is currently visiting Jordan.

His royal highness explained to the guest the developments the region is experiencing in light of the repercussions of the Gulf crisis. The crown prince asserted Jordan's readiness to work for a peaceful solution to this crisis and for all the other disputes which the Middle East is suffering, according to a holistic and integrated approach, which coordinates between the various political and economic levels. The crown prince also highlighted the importance of giving a chance to peaceful options and diplomatic efforts to resolve this crisis, warning against the outcome of foreign military presence on Islamic and Arab lands, and asserting that a solution to the Gulf crisis should be within the Arab family.

For his part, the PRC official expressed his country's opposition to the foreign presence in the region and to the use of military force as a means to resolve the dispute. He also expressed the need to resolve the Gulf crisis within the Arab context. He said, moreover, that the PRC leadership values the role Jordan has assumed under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn in order to reach a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

Musawi: U.S. Presence To Delay Hostage Release

NC1608142790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1409 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Husayn Musawi, a leader of pro-Iranian fundamentalists, has stated in Ba'labakk that the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia will delay the release of Americans who are being held hostage in Lebanon.

Jerusalem Radio Reports

TA1608132290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Husayn Musawi, one of the leaders of Hizballah, has warned that the presence of U.S. Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf area may postpone the release of the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon. He claimed it would be impossible to release them soon because, as he put it, the United States acts aggressively toward the Islamic nation.

East Beirut Demonstrators Protest U.S. Embargo

NC1708155190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Demonstrators marched to the Iraqi Embassy in al-Hazimiyah [in East Beirut] today to denounce the embargo on Iraq. The demonstrators backed Iraq's steadfastness against the U.S. intervention in the Gulf.

Kuwait Envoy Recalled To Protest Iraq Action

NC1608172790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanon has decided to recall its ambassador to Kuwait in protest of Iraq's decision to close down the embassies operating in Kuwait and its demand that they move to Baghdad.

According to governmental sources, the Foreign Ministry has recalled 'Adnan Badra, Lebanon's ambassador to Kuwait, after Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and its decision that embassies must operate from Baghdad only. The sources termed the Foreign Ministry's recall of the ambassador a rejection of the Iraqi decision.

Hizballah's Al-Musawi Terms Iraqi Regime 'Brutal'

NC1308070890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] The Islamic Resistance held a ceremony in al-Hirmil yesterday afternoon to honor the memory of a group of its pious martyrs—Martyr Ihab Husayn Shahin, Martyr 'Abd-al-Nasir Wafiq Hamadah, and Martyr Husayn Dib Murtada. There was a large attendance by Hizballah masses and a number of ulema led by His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi who saluted the martyrs and their master Imam al-Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, and the sacred Imam Khomenyi. He also saluted the dignified al-Hirmil which has offered 25 martyrs for the cause of righteouness. His eminence said that when Israel entered the south in 1982, it came to occupy Lebanon and other countries, but it was confronted by a resistance which thwarted its schemes and halted its advance.

Commenting on the situation in the Gulf, his eminence said that the Iraqi regime is a brutal regime that was bred in the embrace of colonialism—a regime that seeks divisions among Muslims. He noted that His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, had repeatedly warned the world and the Gulf countries of the Iraqi regime and urged unity and cohesiveness of ranks against global arrogance.

Ba'th Party Hails Kuwait 'National Uprising'

JN0408222590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—The regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon has hailed the national uprising in Kuwait and urged the masses to rally behind it. It also lauded Iraq and its great struggler leader Saddam Husayn for heeding the call of pan-Arab duty and rallying to the cause of Kuwait's patriotic uprising. This came in a statement by the regional command, which stated:

As a momentous national event, coming as it does at a fateful juncture in Arab history, the national uprising of Kuwait ushers in a new dawn in the political life of the country and constitutes an addition to the Arab struggle for liberation.

Long overdue, the uprising was bound to erupt after the defunct regime had persisted in its corrupt practices and turned Kuwait into a ranch for its henchmen and servants to squander the country's national wealth. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti regime had shirked the most fundamental obligations to the Palestinian cause and the heroic intifadah. It had openly taken the side of the Arab nation's enemies who are working to dominate the Arabs using the Zionist enemy as an instrument. The Kuwaiti regime had manipulated crude oil to advance the cause of imperialists and international monopolists and the Washington-Tel Aviv axis, positioning itself directly athwart pan-Arab security and interests. [passage omitted]

Attempts to bring a foreign dimension to what has happened in Kuwait only seek to suppress the role of the people in this national change and to make the case for foreign intervention and belligerent acts against Arab quarters that are taking a stand against imperialism and Zionism. [passage omitted]

Lebanese From Kuwait Reach Syrian Border

NC1508174290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today received a cable from the Lebanese Embassy in Amman saying that a convoy of about 100 vehicles with Kuwaiti license plates carrying Lebanese citizens coming from Kuwait arrived on Tuesday [14 August] evening at the Saudi-Jordanian border. Facilities were extended to the convoy to allow it to reach the

Jordanian-Syrian border in coordination with the Lebanese Embassy which dispatched employees to assist.

Second Group Arrives 16 Aug

NC1608180190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] A second group of Lebanese nationals arrived from Kuwait today. It included about 30 vehicles carrying 150 persons. A delegation from the new arrivals contacted our radio station today and informed us that all members of the delegation arrived safely in Beirut without receiving any harassment. The delegation traveled from Iraq to Syria via Jordan and then traversed al-Mudayrij, Hammana, and Monte Verde after reaching Lebanon.

The delegation assured the families of the Lebanese who are still in Kuwait that all of them are safe, adding that all necessities such as food, water, and electricity are available.

Returnees Arrive From Liberia 12 Aug

NC1208070090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] A specially chartered Middle East Airlines plane arrived in Beirut yesterday carrying 152 members of the Lebanese community in Liberia who had earlier succeeded in crossing the border into Sierra Leone. Another plane is expected to arrive today carrying a second group of Lebanese from Liberia.

Travelers from Liberia said that before they arrived at the Sierra Leonean border the Liberian rebels forced them to pay between $1,500 and $2,000 as a toll on each departing vehicles. They also forced them to give them gold.

Ransom Increase Delayed Swiss Hostages' Release

NC1608163290 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 15 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] Sidon, AL-ANWAR—Reliable sources in Sidon revealed yesterday that the transaction in which the two Swiss hostages, Elio Erriquez and Emmanuel Christen, were released involved a ransom in the sum of $5,500,000. The sources also disclosed that the 12-hour delay in the release was due to an increase in the demanded ransom. The abductors insisted on receiving the entire ransom in cash, including the share of the third party which acted as a mediator. The resulting confusion led to the delay in the release .

The sources add that the abductors insisted that the transaction be conducted in one single action. Hence, the mediators had to undertake time-consuming contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Swiss Government.

According to the same sources, a few hours before Elio's release the process was almost suspended, but all parties concerned made every effort to overcome all obstacles hindering negotiations.

Explosion Destroys Two Tanks From Pro-'Awn Units

NC1108183190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] An explosion occurred this morning near the Brazilian embassy in B'abda. It was targeted against an assembly point for tanks belonging to units loyal to General Michel 'Awn.

According to reports, the explosion was targeted against the headquarters of the 54th Tank Battalion of the 5th Brigade. The explosion destroyed two tanks and caused heavy material damage to the building and the surrounding area. It is not known if there were any casualties because of the security cordon 'Awn's units threw around the scene of the explosion.

Israeli Overflights Reported in South 14 Aug

NC1408084190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] At 1000 today, Israeli military planes overflew areas east of Sidon and the coast at low altitude.

Blast in West Beirut; 'Awn Attacks Resume

NC1508102090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] An explosive charge exploded a while ago in the section of the Mar Ilyas camp in West Beirut that is close to UNESCO, killing one man and injuring two.

In East Beirut, 'Awn's gunmen renewed their attacks on the Lebanese Forces' positions at midday. They fired light- and medium-caliber weapons at the Lebanese Forces' positions in Olivetti.

'Awn Troops Attack Lebanese Forces in Beirut

NC1608121890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces' positions in the Nahr al-Mawt area [in East Beirut] came under machine-gun fire from 'Awn's gunmen at dawn today.

Troop Concentrations, Alert in Pro-'Awn Forces

NC1608170090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Reports from the eastern area mention troop concentrations and of a state of alert involving the Lebanese Forces and the pro-'Awn troops, amid an exhange of rocket and artillery fire along the various newly established combat lines. This has renewed the citizens' concern and fear. They have suffered greatly from the senseless clashes in the eastern area.

Soviet Envoy Delivers Message to Al-Asad 16 Aug

JN1708074590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] At 1000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Mikhail Sytenko, roving ambassador at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and envoy of the Soviet leadership.

The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Aleksandr Zotov, Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Sytenko conveyed to the president a message from the Soviet leadership and the best greetings and wishes of President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership. The president gave the Soviet envoy a message in reply and asked him to convey his best wishes and greetings to President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership and friendly people. The meeting centered on the Gulf crisis.

Qaddurah Receives Letter From Jordanian Speaker

JN1708104190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 Aug (SANA)—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received today Jordan's Ambassador in Damascus Nayif al-Hadid.

Al-Hadid gave Qaddurah a letter from Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of Jordan's House of Representatives. The two talked about regional developments and bilateral issues.

Commentary Considers Iraq's 'Huge Blunder'

JN1708104490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Iraq's return to the 1975 Algiers agreement as the basis for a settlement to its dispute with Iran has taken the whole world by surprise. The agreement was torn up by Iraq in 1980, dismissed as detrimental to its national interests, and then used as a pretext to wage an eight-year war at the cost of a million or so lives on both sides and untold damage to the countries and peoples of the region, besides inundating Iraq in a sea of economic ills and debts, which were used to justify Iraq's recent invasion of Kuwait. A stunned world is now asking why Iraq started the war in the first place. Is the Iraqi move not a virtual admission of a huge blunder against a friendly Muslim neighbor of the Arabs, which from day one of the Islamic revolution set out to give intensive support for the Arab effort to recover Jerusalem? Was the war meant to punish the Iranian people as they spontaneously rallied behind the Arabs against Israel and Zionism and deployed their huge resources alongside the Arabs in an honorable struggle that was beneficial to Arabs and Muslims?

The Arabs themselves are now remarking how totally different the regional picture would have been had the human and material resources invested pointlessly in this war been deployed in the anti-Zionist battle. The Arabs must also be commenting that if Iraq's initiation of a war with Iran—a friendly and Muslim nation—was such a sin, the invasion of a sisterly Arab country like Kuwait must count as an even graver sin. In 1980 Arab and Islamic solidarity was the first casualty of Iraq's war with Iran. It was thanks to this war that foreign fleets found their way into the Gulf. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait now leaves Arab and Islamic solidarity in even worse shape, besides blowing all recent and promising efforts to achieve true Arab solidarity. One of the first consequences of the invasion of Kuwait has been a redeployment of foreign naval forces to the Gulf. In addition, Iraq's credibility in the international community has plummeted to an all-time low. Hence, the international community's insistence on a return to the pre-2 August lines, the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the restitution of the legitimate government of Kuwait. In any case, the Arabs themselves are urging the withdrawal, since Kuwait is a sisterly Arab state and an Arab League member, whose territory was unjustifiably conquered. Indeed, Kuwait provided generous assistance to Iraq during its war with Iran. The invasion of Kuwait is an example of the law of the jungle dominating intra-Arab relations, and recourse to armed intervention in relations between Arab brothers is forbidden in the Arab vocabulary. The invasion of Kuwait in effect strengthens Israel's case for retaining occupied Arab land, gives it a free hand to gear up for new incursions, and exposes the whole region to the most serious dangers. Not that Iraq itself would be spared. All things considered, the invasion of Kuwait is a capital sin, and as such, should never be condoned. Nothing short of an unconditional, prompt Iraqi withdrawal would ensure the pullout of foreign fleets from the Gulf and render military intervention all that less likely, in addition to sparing Iraq and the Arab region the risk of a devastating war.

If 10 years after its war with friendly neighbor Iran, Iraq has come full circle and admitted its sin, there is no earthly reason why it should not admit an even deadlier sin committed against a sisterly Arab country and pull its forces back before the crisis assumes uncontrollable proportions.

Papers Stress Need For Iraqi Withdrawal

JN1608115990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "No One Will Have a Future if the Nation Is Set Aside," AL-BA'TH says: In light of what is happening and what has happened after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, no one has any option but to emphasize that the situation is very grave and that the region is approaching developments and threats whose dimensions no one can forecast. What is taking place falls within the framework of the side or marginal differences, which will lead to conditions that will not

benefit the main battle or the mobilization of resources in the battle against the Zionist enemy, the Arab nation's main enemy.

The paper explains that what is required now is the Arabs' surrender; the usurpation of their resources and wealth; and giving the Zionist enemy the opportunity to end its isolation, take a rest, and have the opportunity to strike and move freely toward its goals.

The paper adds: Therefore, no one has the right to ignite the fire by his own hands alone and then hide behind false slogans to say this fire is a pan-Arab responsibility.

The paper says: Syria supports every pan-Arab direction toward the battle of destiny. Syria has elevated the nation's cause to the most supreme position and has done all it can to cooperate with its Arab brothers for the sake of this cause. It is concerned for all Arab countries, without differentiating between one country and another. It will not hesitate to do what it can to support the Arab brothers on principled and ethical bases.

The paper concludes by saying: What has been decided by the extraordinary Cairo summit is an Arab solution to the crisis and a key to deal with the situation on a pan-Arab level in order to defuse it, open the door to save what can be saved, and remedy what has been damaged by the hands which followed selfish interests and personal gains at the expense of the Arab nation.

In one of its commentaries, AL-THAWRAH stresses that the events and facts in the Arab arena have confirmed that some Arabs do not consider carefully the posed threats or realize the catastrophes and disasters awaiting our nation. They are still turning a blind eye to the source of the real threat and follow selfish desires and personal whims.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Although there is little hope of reaching any solution unless Iraq withdraws its troops from Kuwait and returns things to the way they were before 2 August, Iraqi authorities must reconsider all the escalating measures, withdraw their troops, and respond to the Arab and international desire before the unforeseen takes place.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: It is a virtue to retreat from mistakes, especially if this mistake is the size of the catastrophe resulting from the invasion and its effects and repercussions, which threaten the Arabs' security, future, and existence. Can we hope for a serious and responsible position that will put an end to this bad dream? Or will the personal whims eclipse the pan-Arab interest and open the door for the possibilities of explosion and war?

In the "Behind the News" column and under the headline "Damascus, the Arabs' Refuge," TISHRIN says: As is the case in every crisis, Damascus has become in the past few days the place on which all eyes are riveted. It has become the city which provides a canopy for the Arabs and the place on which hopes are pinned for a well-earned role, as everybody admits, since it has a key role in determining the future of the region.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Why Damascus? Because it means the wise leadership of militant Hafiz al-Asad. And because—with its national, militant political program and its deep-rooted national heritage—it has proved its credibility in all of its political options that result from the sound arrangement of its priorities. Syria has warned and cautioned. It has programmed its political, economic, and social life in a way to build the edifice of defense against the Zionist threat. It has urged the brothers, and is still urging them, to realize the increasing threats of the Zionist scheme and to contribute to the mobilization and massing of resources to face it. Syria has, and still is, concerned for being faithful in representing its nation's interests. It also sacrifices in its commitment to the central pan-Arab concern.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Particularly at this critical time through which the nation is passing, the neutral observer can notice the criteria crystallized by Damascus to draw up the objectives and determine what has to be done to serve the nation and its causes—that is, no voice shall rise above the voice of confronting the Zionist threat.

Al-Ahmar Meets Arab Communist Party Officials

JN1208194090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In Damascus, comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has received communist parties' representatives participating in the first meeting of communist parties in the Arab homeland.

Comrade al-Ahmar welcomed the participants and exchanged views with them on the discussions and outcome of the meeting.

He reviewed the current Arab and international situation and the new developments in the region and their effect on the basic causes of the Arab nation as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He stressed the need for an Arab solution to the resulting crisis as manifested in the emergency Arab summit resolutions in Cairo.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Ratifies Laws, Amendments 17 Aug

LD1708081190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0511 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 16 BAKHTAR—Based on the provisions of Item 2, Articles 75th and 104th of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah has ratified the legislative decrees of the Council of Ministers of the RA about the amendment of Article 4 of the Law on the Council of Constitution, the law on political parties and the amendment brought in the law on state flag and order of the RA, reports Office of President, to BAKHTAR today.

The Council of Ministers of the RA is dutybound to submit to the first session of the National Assembly the said legislative decrees for approval. They will also be sent to the Ministry of Justice to be published in the official gazette of the Ministry of Justice of the RA.

Commander of Herat Tribal Units Buried 15 Aug

LD1608191190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The body of martyred Colonel Muhammad Daod Jawan, commander of the tribal units of Herat Province, was buried yesterday in his ancestor's graveyard in this provice.

The military section of the BIA reported that General Muhammad Nabi Azemi, first deputy minister of defense and general commander of the Kabul Garrison; Lieutenant-General Hesamoddin Hosam, deputy minister of state security; a number of generals and high-ranking officers of the armed forces; relatives; and family friends took part in the funeral ceremony. [passage omitted]

'U.S.-Made' Missiles Cause Fatalities in Kabul

LD1608181790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Three Kabul citizens were martyred and 14 injured as a result of an attack by U.S.-made missiles. According to the BAKHTAR military section, the injured were taken to hospitals and are under medical treatment. Twelve missiles fired at the city today from the northwest hit residential areas in city wards 4, 5, 9, and 10, also causing material damage. The missiles were of the Sakr type which, contrary to all international standards and norms, were supplied by the United States for terrorizing and massacring our faithful Muslim compatriots.

Battle Reports From Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar

LD1608183890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Units and companies of the armed forces in Nangarhar are now in their previous and new positions which they won after pushing back Saudi Wahabis, and they are engaged in strengthening their positions and military training. An authorized source of the armed forces reported to BAKHTAR military section that during the last three days foreign agents fired heavy weapons against some positions in the front defense lines and various residential areas. In response, their fire positions were attacked with artillery and air strikes. As a result of these strikes during the last three days 65 BM-12 units, one wireless unit, 2 units for launching BM-1, two mortars, and three enemy vehicles were destroyed.

As a result of the attacks by Saudi Wahabis, two civilians were wounded.

According to the source, units and companies in Paktia Province are prepared for repulsing every kind of attack by Saudi Wahabis. During the past three days foreign agents fired heavy weapons against some positions of the security units in Gardeyz and Khowst cities. In order to neutralize these attacks, the resistance positions of the mercenary Wahabis were subjected to retaliatory atacks by our units, as a result of which a number of positions of these enemies of people's peace and tranquility, three rocket launchers, one missile launching unit, and four mortars belonging to them were destroyed.

According to another report, on 13 and 14 August Saudi Wahabis fired heavy weapons at some security posts around Qandahar city. In retaliation their fire positions were brought under fire by our units, as a result of which two mortars, four rocket launchers, and one missile-launching unit belonging to them were destroyed.

Bangladesh

Cabinet Committee Discusses Bangladeshis in Gulf

BK1608133290 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] In Dhaka, the cabinet committee for emergency situation held its first meeting on Wednesday [15 August] with its chairman Vice President Moudud Ahmad in the chair. The meeting reviewed the overall situation pertaining to Bangladesh nationals working in Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. It also discussed the oil price and its impact in the international market, world economy, trade, and commerce. The committee also took certain decisions for final approval of the president.

Iraqi Envoy Comments

BK1608163890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Iraqi ambassador in Dhaka, Zuhayr 'Ummad al-'Umar says Bangladesh nationals in Iraq and Kuwait are fully safe and secure. The ambassador, who was called to the foreign office today, said his country will do everything possible to insure their security and there is no reason for fear and panic. The government drew his attention to the increasing hardships Bangladesh nationals are facing in Kuwait and early release of 443 Bangladeshis taken to Baghdad from Kuwait along with other nationals.

A foreign office spokesman in Dhaka said no Bangladesh nationals have reportedly entered Saudi Arabia from Kuwait, adding to the earlier number 5,000.

General To Discuss Troop Deployment With Saudis

BK1608163590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] A two-member team led by Major General M.A. Wahid leaves Dhaka tomorrow for Saudi Arabia. It will work out the details of stationing a Bangladesh military contingent in the kingdom. Bangladesh yesterday announced its decision to send a military contingent to Saudi Arabia in response to a request by Saudi King Fahd. The token stationing of the contingent will be only for defensive purposes.

Opposition Leader Calls for 'Caretaker' Government

BK1508025090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0218 GMT 15 Aug 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 15 (AFP)—Bangladesh's main opposition leader Shaykh Hasina Wajed, whose father died in a coup 15 years ago, predicted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad will face the same fate as all "dictators." "I know I can be killed any time, but I am not afraid of that, as life and death is in the hands of god," she said in an interview on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the death of her father, President Shaykh Mujibur Rahman.

Shaykh Hasina said Mr. Ershad would face the same fate as the late Philippine strongman Ferdinand Marcos and former Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is now in a U.S. prison awaiting trial on drug charges. "It's only matter of time," she said. "He will have to go, as he is clinging to power shamelessly like all dictators."

She hinted darkly that she could fall victim to the same enemies who killed her father and most of her family in an August 15, 1975 coup led by army officers. The coup leader, retired Colonel Faruq Rahman, now heads the Freedom Party (FP) and has repeatedly said he personally never wanted to kill Shaykh Mujib, but ordered it to free the people from "oppression."

Following an August 1989 gunfire attack on Shaykh Hasina's home, the government tightened security for all opposition leaders. As Shaykh Hasina's Awami League was planning to observe wednesday a "national day of mourning," the FP planned to celebrate the occasion as "democracy day."

Authorities have tightened security to thwart any possible clash between the two rival groups, sources said. She said the anti-Ershad campaign would only be successful when the opposition was united. But asked if that meant joining with her rival, Begum Khaleda Zia of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Shaykh Hasina would only say the two had no conflict, only a "difference of position."

She said that while her politics were people-oriented, Mrs. Zia's were based on the "barracks." If this were not true, she said, Mrs. Zia would not enjoy the government homes and other facilities offered her by Mr. Ershad. Mrs. Zia continues to live in the same army residence she shared with her late husband, President Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in a 1981 military coup.

Mr. Ershad, then a general, seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup from an elected BNP government. Political analysts believe that the opposition could triumph if the two feuding women of Bangladesh politics joined hands as they did in 1987.

Asked about Mr. Ershad's offer to discuss future elections, Shaykh Hasina said she did not want to negotiate "with the gentleman, who can lie so much." She repeated her view that free elections could only be held under a neutral, caretaker government. But she said she would consider running in elections organized by the present government if it abided by her demand to hold parliamentary polls before the presidential balloting.

Mr. Ershad has announced he will run for a second five-year term in next year's presidential elections, which would be followed by parliamentary polls. Major opposition groups have shunned his call to take part in the polling, insisting that free polls were not possible with the 60-year-old president in power.

On her being tipped as the likely prime minister to emerge from any free elections, Shaykh Hasina laughed and said, "I will be if people want me. Fair voting can only decide that." She said her administration would strive to maintain a foreign policy of "friendship to all and malice to none."

She said she regretted the dismissal of former Premier Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan but said "we cannot forget the atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army on our people during the nine-month war of independence in 1971." She stressed that Islamabad would have to settle the issue of assets and liabilities with Bangladesh, and

accept the nearly 250,000 ethnic Biharis living here who consider themselves Pakistanis.

Speaking in a room dominated by portraits of her late father, Shaykh Hasina said that had he lived Bangladesh would have achieved "true" independence by fulfilling the basic needs of the masses. She said that she was carrying on her father's struggle by fighting for democracy, peoples' rights and the truth.

She repeated her demand for the punishment of the killers of her father and other family members. "I demand their punishment as a citizen of Bangladesh and not as the slain leader's daughter," she said.

Policeman Among Five Detained for Drug Peddling

BK1708065290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 17 (AFP)—A police constable was arrested along with four other people by anti-narcotics detectives for drug peddling, sources said Friday. Constable Elias (one name) was caught with 30 heroin-filled cigarettes Thursday in the district of Mohammadpur, a Dhaka area especially hard hit by drug dealing and other crime, the sources said.

Police have filed separate cases against those detained for drug dealing. A police officer, Birendra (one name), and two constables were detained on similar charges in the same area in June.

Heroin locally valued at about 500,000 taka (14,285 dollars) was seized from Mr. Birendra's home after an extensive search, reports said. Bangladesh, once a transit route for Central and Southeast Asian drug rings, has itself become a market over the past two years, with an estimated seven million addicts across the country.

Dhaka has an estimated 50,000 drug addicts, many of them Biharis stranded in refugee camps. The Biharis opposed the 1971 war in which Bangladesh became independent from Pakistan, and claim to be citizens of that country. Drug peddling is punishable by death in Bangladesh.

India

Gujral Rules Out Mediation Role in Gulf Crisis

BK1608132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, today categorically ruled out any Indian plans for mediation in the Gulf crisis. Speaking to newsmen after his meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker, in Washington today, Mr. Gujral said that the purpose of his visit to Moscow and Washington was to express India's economic concerns and not to play any mediation role. About his visit to Baghdad, he said he is not carrying any message to the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, from either the Soviet Union or the United States.

Spokesman on Outcome of Gujral-Baker Talks

BK1608160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The United States has indicated its willingness to support any international cooperative effort to ease the burden of most seriously affected nations resulting from the UN sanctions against Iraq. The effort can include both oil supplies and economic assistance to offset the imbalances created by the sanctions. This was conveyed to the external affairs minister, Mr. I. K. Gujral, by the American secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, during their talks in Washington. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the United States also agreed that the most adverse effects of the UN sanctions are being felt by the developing countries, particularly India.

About the situation in Kuwait, the two leaders noted that there has been a slight deterioration in the availability of food and medicines there. Mr. Gujral asked Mr. Baker whether in the face of UN sanctions it would be possible to send food supplies to Kuwait by sea from India if a need arises. The question of free access to Kuwait by land, air or sea was also discussed. Mr. Baker felt that there would be no obstacle in the supply of essential commodities like food and medicines as well as in moving out the distressed people.

The spokesman said the visit of Mr. Gujral to Moscow and Washington was directed at apprising them of the difficulties faced by Indians in Kuwait and by the government in obtaining supplies of oil. The Soviet Union has also expressed appreciation of our problems both from economic and humanitarian points of view. It also expressed the sincere desire to help India to the maximum extent possible.

Singh on Steps to Curb Increased Demand for Oil

BK1708084390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, has hinted that more stringent measures may become necessary in case of steps already taken by the government to curb the increase in demand of petroleum products do not yield the desired results. In a letter to MP's [Members of Parliament], Chief Ministers, and leaders of political parties, the prime minister said the rapid growth in the consumption of petroleum products in an area of particular concern and domestic production of crude is not able to match the rising demand [sentence as heard]. He said foreign exchange constraints no longer permit an adequate provision to meet the deficit through imports.

Parliament Concerned on Indians Safety in Kuwait

BK1608132890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Both houses of parliament today expressed serious concern over the safety and security of Indians stranded in Kuwait. They demanded immediate action by the Government to evacuate the Indian nationals and furnish their relations at home with adequate information about their well-being.

In the Lok Sabha, the issue was raised soon after question-hour and members cutting across party-lines wanted to know what the Government is doing in this regard. They alleged that the transport facilities to bring the people back home are inadequate and the information system weak. Several other members also wanted to know the Government's official position about the developments in the Gulf and the deployment of U.S. troops there. The surface transport minister, Mr. Unnikrishnan, assured the house that the center is making all efforts to evacuate those Indians who want to leave Kuwait and the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, is reaching Baghdad tomorrow to facilitate the matter. Earlier, the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, joined the members in expressing anxiety over the matter when his attention was drawn to a day-long fast being observed by members of parliament belonging to the Congress-I, Kerala Congress, and Muslim League from Kerala at the Parliament Gate in this connection.

In the Rajya Sabha, members demanded a statement on the plight of Indians as soon as the house assembled. The leader of the house, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, assured members that the Government is fully seized of the matter and the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, has already visited Moscow and Washington and will be meeting the Iraqi leaders tomorrow to discuss the issue.

375 Arrive From Amman 16 Aug

BK1608081290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Another batch of 375 stranded Indians, including 15 children, arrived at the Bombay airport from Amman early today by an Air India Boeing 747. A spokesman said Air India would operate additional flights to Amman, if and when called for to bring back the Indians.

Government Opposes Military Intervention in Gulf

BK1708092290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] India has opposed military intervention from any quarter in the current West Asia crisis. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said in Washington today that interference at the present juncture will further aggravate the situation in the Gulf region. The minister, in an interview with ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL, said that his visit to Moscow, Washington, and Baghdad is mainly to protect India's national interests.

Iraqi Embassy Denies Reports of Attempt on Saddam

BK1708090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The Iraqi Embassy in New Delhi today denied as baseless reports that an attempt was made to assassinate President Saddam Husayn.

Spokesman Denies Receiving Bhutto Message

BK1608120190 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0935 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] When questioned about the veracity of reports appearing in Indian papers in the last few days about a special envoy sent by former Pakistan prime minister to our prime minister and EAM [external affairs minister], the official spokesman said that "these reports talk about the refusal of EAM to respond to certain messages that were said to have been sent by the former Pakistan prime minister through the so-called special emissary, Mr. Mazhar Ali Khan. He is a respected editor of a magazine in Pakistan and has himself given an interview which has been published in today's papers, wherein he has described the story as a typical subcontinental concoction, based on utter fantasy. Mr. Mazhar Ali Khan's call on Mr. Gujral was a social one as he has known the minister for some years. We have also seen press reports from Pakistan, quoting a spokesman of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] wherein he has referred to similar reports which have been carried in the Pakistan press as mischievous and as attempts to assassinate the character of the former prime minister.

"As far as we are concerned, we on our part wish to state unequivocally that there is no truth whatsoever in this malacious story. There is no question of any messages of the kind referred to by the SUNDAY OBSERVER story, seeking Indian intervention, ever having been conveyed and, therefore, ever having been received the question of spurning them. Therefore, it is figment of some extremely fertile imagination.

"We regret that Indian journalists should fall easy prey to the most fanciful, blatant and venomous disinformation being put out by interested agencies in Pakistan. We condemn the practice of such irresponsible journalism which can lead to dangerous consequences since it concerns matters of international interaction between nations."

Commentary Reviews Outcome of Pakistan Talks

BK1608163690 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Samir Pal commentary on India-Pakistan foreign secretary-level talks]

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan's mission in New Delhi for talks with Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey on reducing border tension and confidence-building measures suggested by India got off to a

good start with his arrival on Thursday. He conveyed Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's message about genuine interest in establishing cooperative, mutual, beneficial, and good neighborly relations with India.

But the bonafides of this diplomatic exercise on its concluding day, that is, Saturday, were marred by the arrest in Islamabad of five Pakistani journalists that evening after they emerged from the residence of a senior Indian diplomat. Their arrest signals perhaps the complete take over of the affairs of the country by the pervasive military establishment. The tensions in Pakistan are internal, inherent in a country of unstable political situation punctuated by the army's intervention in different ways and at junctures of its own choosing. Having taken over the administrative mantle from the former premier, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's democratic governmental set up and with the autumn snow in the high altitude passes leading into Kashmir and Siachen just a few weeks away, the Pakistan army's (?brief) to Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan's delegation appears to have been to secure a reduction of Indian troops in Kashmir and Punjab deployed in aid of civil power.

Pakistan has been of the opinion that the Indian deployment of the paramilitary and army units in the border region and along the line of actual control in Kashmir was more than required to contain the activities of the terrorist and subversive elements whom Pakistan was officially promoting training and infiltrating. Pakistan's delegation [word indistinct] dictated, no doubt, by the military mandarins in Islamabad, seems to have had two central objectives. First, to obtain redeployment of Indian forces to the barracks in the rear from their forward encampments. Second, to bring up the issue of the situation in Kashmir. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan was apparently thwarted in his diplomatic forays here to make much headway on both these issues. Pakistan's military masters now saddled with the responsibility of administering the country with Premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi as a well respected civilian twelfth man want their depleted cadres and leadership-level personnel of the secessionist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to be replenished before the snow closed the mountain passes. Thinner Indian security presence on the ground in Kashmir and Punjab would allow the infiltration of terrorists to be built up to sustain enough struggle in the Kashmir valley and to some extent in Punjab during the winter months, while Pakistan sets its house in order before and after the promised 24 October general elections.

It must be remembered that President Ziaul Haq's close confidant and foreign minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has remained the country's foreign policy henchman throughout prime minister Benazir Bhutto's term of office and thereafter also. There was no sign in the foreign secretary-level talks of former General Yaqub Khan's hardline against India having changed. In fact, it appears to have taken on a sharper edge. Yet, there has been some tangible progress. The fact that the army-backed Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi administration, which took over on 6 August decided to continue the dialogue in New Delhi as scheduled is a good sign, even if the new Pakistan Government was playing for time.

Despite the tension-ridden atmosphere, an agreement has virtually been reached on the draft proposals for prevention of airspace violation by military aircraft and also information to one another about military exercise and maneuvers. Declaring that progress has been made, the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, remarked that the forward movement was enough for us to feel confident about going to Islamabad for a third round of talks in the last week of September. On the Pakistani delegation's assertion that the evidence about Pakistan's involvement in inciting violence and subversion in Punjab and Kashmir being not credible, Mr. Muchkund Dubey's affirmation in an aside was it is massive, concrete and irrefutable. He said later and I quote: it was not our intention to extract a public confession, unquote.

V.P. Singh Gives Independence Day Speech

BK1608013290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0200 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Speech by Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh at an independence day rally at the Red Fort in New Delhi on 15 August—live]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, I extend to you my heartfelt greetings on the occasion of this independence day. Forty-five years ago history had taken a turn, and from this very place Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had hoisted this beautiful tricolor flag of an independent India, which reflected the future hopes of all sections of the people. This flag is the symbol of our struggle, our resolution, and strength. [passage omitted]

After independence this country underwent many trials and tribulations. It had to pass through very difficult times, but every time the great people of this country have emerged even stronger. The country had to fight wars and face natural disasters. It saw power handed over through democratic means. But, one thing that has clearly emerged from all these trials is that the roots of democracy have become strong here and nobody can now shake them. The people have always held high the honor and dignity of the country, which is our greatest strength.

The country is now facing double challenges—separatism on the one side and violence on the other. While separatism is challenging the unity of our country, the violence is posing a challenge to our democracy. Today our entire freedom struggle, our political and social values and systems are being challenged. This challenge is being faced not by any single party or class, but by the entire fabric of the nation.

Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam are the names of different places with different problems, but the challenge posed by violence and separatism is only one and, therefore, we will have to face it united and not individually. We are continuing our efforts in this regard. My heart goes out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who participated in the war of independence. My heart goes out to the people of Punjab, who shed their blood to achieve our independence. In the Jalianwala Bagh we find the marks of blood of both Hindus and Sikhs. Assam has been our most peaceful state. But the solution to these problems must be found by the people of these states themselves. I would like to tell the people of Kashmir that secularism is the symbol of our freedom. Today, not only is the valley of Jammu or Kashmir theirs, but the whole country is theirs. If we have committed some mistakes, we are prepared to correct them because they are our people.

But those who think in terms of leaving this country are living in the world of illusions and have been instigated by a foreign power. They should recollect the sad events that took place after independence in which hundreds of thousands of people left for a neighboring country. Till today they are called refugees there. They have not been accepted in that country—even today—and are facing bullets.

The people in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir should not feel alienated. The entire country is willing to fight with all its might to overcome their problems, hardships, and pains and sorrows. India's prosperity is their prosperity, and I am confident the day will come when these people, especially misguided elements, will realize this fact and will equally contribute towards building a great India.

Within a few days of my government coming into power, we went to the Golden Temple [Sikh holy shrine in Amritsar] and bowed our heads. We also prayed at the Durgyani temple [in Punjab]. We also visited the martyrs memorial in Jalianwala Bagh and prayed for peace in Punjab, which so far has eluded it. There was a purpose behind these visits. An atmosphere existed at that time in which every Sikh was looked upon suspiciously and their honor was hurt. The purpose was to honor them, assure them and tell them that the sacrifices they have made for this country and its independence, the green revolution, and for increasing industrial production are recognized by the nation. Now a new atmosphere of confidence has replaced the old atmosphere of suspicion.

Regarding the problem of violence, unfortunately, it has increased and this is a cause of concern for us. We are, however, trying very hard. The 68th Amendment to the Constitution relating to Punjab has been withdrawn to relieve the lingering agony among our Sikh brothers. Many innocent people who were jailed have been released. Army deserters who left their jobs because of some anger have also been released from jail. Special courts were set up in connection with the Delhi [anti-Sikh] riots in 1984 [following the assassination of Indira Gandhi]. All this has been done not to compromise on anything, but to create confidence because I believe that the people of Punjab definitely want peace. They want to live in India. It will be the greatest injustice to the people of Punjab if they are linked with separatists at any time. This we will never do. We will continue to put our trust in the people of Punjab.

However, we must decide who is and who is not with India on this occasion. There will be no compromise with those who are not with India because everything can be sacrificed but there cannot be even a little bit of compromise on the solidarity of India. [applause]. That is why our policy is quite clear.

We will win over the people of Punjab with love but we will defeat the anti-national forces with weapons. We will use love as well as weapons. [applause].

Dear countrymen, youths, and freedom fighters, we must make a pledge on this Independence Day that we must wage a second independence war—in fact, it is being waged and is in front of us—and we must participate in it to save the country. The last generation gave us a flag and this generation has the responsibility to keep this flag flying.

Our armed forces and police are fighting valiantly, but it is not their job or duty alone to die for the country. This is every citizen's duty and the only countries that survive are those where all citizens rise as one—as in Vietnam or Leningrad where the people stood up unitedly to save their country. Today there is a need for this. If 800 million people and the youth rise in action, then we can erect a human wall on our borders and nobody will dare cross our borders. [applause] It is true that we do not have the resources to increase the number of soldiers on the Armed Forces payroll. The Armed Forces have made many sacrifices and we are proud of them, but we must think on this Independence Day whether Mahatama Gandhi raised the army of freedom fighters by paying them. The entire nation stood up when he asked for sacrifices for the country. With only a handful of [word indistinct] I urge the youth to come forward to safeguard the country. If you talk of funds, no country has ever been saved by money alone. It is with sacrifices and blood that a country has been saved. Today, all of us—whether we are sitting on the ground or on this rostrum—must mobilize this people's power to unitedly guard our borders against dangers; to curb daily violation of our borders; and to check the continuing crossing of our borders by armed persons. We must remain wholeheartedly ready for this task. On this Independence Day we need the sentinels of freedom, who should come forward. We all, including me, are ready to go with them. It is better to die on the border than to sit in Delhi and watch the border being violated. [applause]. The country is calling for sacrifices and we must be once again ready to offer sacrifices in the memory of our martyrs. We

cannot fight this war from the central government secretariat, from the North and South Blocks [government offices in New Delhi] only, but we will have to take this war to our fields and farms from where 1.6 billion hands of 800 million people will rise in action and save the nation, and nobody will be able to endanger it. At the same time, the hearts of the 800 million people of the country beat with the people of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. They are not isolated from us. We must protect them and see that no injustice is done to them. We are ready to offer sacrifices to establish a just environment of peace there.

Aside from these problems, one more major issue that confronts us—which I had also mentioned on my first day in office—is the Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Mosque [a shrine in Uttar Pradesh claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] dispute. We have been trying to find ways and means to resolve this dispute with reciprocity, mutual understanding, and love, because this is the only way in which the country has solved its problems. Thus far we have not achieved much success in this regard, but I have not lost heart.

But I will certainly say here that the biggest temple of God is a man's heart. [applause] If a man's heart—which is the most sacred abode of God—is broken, where will the temples and mosques stand?

Our effort in this regard is to resolve the problem through overall understanding, but we will have to uphold the honor of the courts. If any problem is not resolved and if there is a dispute between the people of this country with diverse religions, faiths, languages, and regions—because everybody has his own faith which I have to respect because I don't want to hurt anybody's faith—we will have to accept the court order, because the court is above government. We are hopeful that a way out of this will be found.

Rising prices are affecting the lives of the people. We are concerned about it because the rise in prices mostly hurts the poor, the laborers, the tricycle pullers, cart pullers, and the porters. We have been facing some economic problems, like inflation and budget deficits, for some time now. We are tackling them, but it will take some time. At the same time, I would also like to warn that those willing to indulge in profiteering will be dealt with firmly and there will be no slackness in this regard. [applause] It is true that the higher prices that we set for some farm products like sugarcane, wheat, and rice have somewhat affected the price trend. This has, however, allowed the toiling masses to receive their due share of the overall prosperity.

At this time we are facing the greatest difficulty in the form of an edible oil shortage due mainly to the 1-million-ton shortfall in production. With the grace of God, there have been good rains everywhere this year, which will have a good impact on prices, but unfortunately the rainfall in the main peanut-growing region of Saurashtra has not been good this year as well. I pray to the clouds to move over to Saurashtra and provide rains and help solve some of our difficulties. [applause]

On the other hand, the prices of petroleum products—oil and diesel—have risen sharply due to the situation that has emerged in the Middle East. Even a dollar's rise in the crude oil causes a 4-billion jump in India's import bill in foreign currency. Within the short span of the past few weeks, we had to shoulder a burden of 16 to 20 billion in foreign currency. [figures, with no currency specified, as heard]

I want to tell my countrymen that there is an easy way to bring down the oil prices, and that way is borrowing money and importing oil—there is no denying the fact that we will have to do that to some extent. If we take this step, it will make the people happy and the government popular. It might also strengthen my position, but can we sacrifice the long-term interests of the country to strengthen our position? It may be a populist move, but it will not serve the interests of the people. [passage omitted]

The next decade—the 1990's—will be observed as a farmers' decade during which we will try to do away with the injustices done to the farmers during past decades. Agriculture is the principal industry of our nation. Many people ask whether or not agriculture is an industry. I say that agriculture is the prime industry of our nation. If this industry stops, other industries will cease to operate. But there are many hurdles in the way, hurdles that we want to remove during this decade. The task cannot be accomplished in a day or night, but we will resolutely move forward in this direction.

We will remove restrictions in the way of the trade of farmers, who should be able to sell their commodities wherever they want to. We will remove the restrictions they face in processing agricultural byproducts. We cannot fully remove controls on exports by farmers, but we will have to take measures to reduce those controls. We have written off farmers' loans once, but we cannot do that every time. Therefore, we must think how resources should be made available to them so they do not get indebted, and how more and more resources can be used to provide irrigation and electricity facilities, which have been the main objectives of our farmers. We also want to integrate agriculture with the agricultural industry. If agro-based industries are set up in villages, the population will not migrate to cities. One of the objectives of our five-year plan is to provide employment to the rural youth in areas other than farming.

We know that if we are going to make India strong, we will have to strengthen our industry. We cannot ignore our industry, because without a strong industrial base India cannot become strong. We will strengthen our industry, and in so doing we will have to pay special attention to exports and small and cottage industries. We will have to free our forces of production from the clutches of red tape and accord priority to them for the development of industry. I am happy that voice is now

being raised to accord the poor their due place. I had stated in my very first address to the nation that if power and government are a sword, then we will wield this sword in favor of the poor to ensure justice to them.

[passage omitted] I proposed in the Rajya Sabha that, instead of wasting time in framing interim legislation for the welfare of poor people, we frame one piece of legislation with courage so that 40 percent of places are reserved for the poor people, because they represent 40 percent of the country's population, in the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, and state assemblies—where decisions are made on running the country and where the real power is centered. I am happy that leaders of all political parties, including Leftist parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Congress-I, have welcomed and supported this proposal. The Rajya Sabha's support for this proposal has encouraged us and we now want to initiate a debate on this throughout the country, and today on Independence Day I want to put forward this proposal to the country, and there should be a national debate on this. [passage omitted]

Today, we cannot forget our brave armed forces—the army, navy and air force. We mention them with pride. They have always maintained the country's honor with their sacrifices. My heart goes out to the soldiers stationed at Siachen [Glacier, disputed territory with Pakistan]. When I look at the Himalayas and our soldiers at Siachen, I feel that the courage of our soldiers at Siachen is even higher than the Himalayas. Today on this auspicious day I want to express gratitude to them on behalf of the entire country.

You would be happy to know that the Akash [surface to air] missile, which we have been developing, was test fired successfully yesterday. This is a matter of pride for us and for our scientists. I wish to express my gratitude to them for this.

On this occasion we cannot forget our ex-soldiers. The government has made important decisions regarding revision of their pensions, which they had been demanding and it will soon be brought forward in the parliament. [passage omitted]

One more thing. It is said that birthdays of the founders of various religions are observed as national holidays. But the birthday of Prophet Mohammad is not a holiday. Today I want to announce that the government has decided that the birthday of Prophet Mohammad will be a national holiday. [applause] Our major minority group was deprived of this. They had desired it. All religions had enjoyed this right; now it is being given to them [Muslims] also.

The situation in Iraq and Kuwait is a matter of concern for us. We can never support violence nor the use of force anywhere in the world. There should not be any unilateral action against anyone. We are concerned about the life and property of our Indians living there, and therefore, our cabinet colleague, a minister, Arif Mohammad Khan, has been sent there to assess the situation and to make arrangements for those who want to return. We are in touch with several countries to ensure that a solution to the problem is found without the use of force, without the use of the army.

Our foreign relations have generally improved. I visited the Soviet Union and that provided me an opportunity to hold talks and see the revolutionary changes there and initiatives taken by President Gorbachev, both within the country and outside. My visit not only strengthened the traditional friendship between India and the Soviet Union, but after talks with Gorbachev we have also found out what we must do in the future as well. He [Gorbachev] has fully supported the role India has to play in world affairs.

With the United States, too, our relations have improved. Their view on the Kashmir issue—whether it is the question of plebiscite [preceding word in English] or the Simla Agreement—has come closer to that of India. We also welcome that.

Our negotiations with China are going ahead in a constructive manner. We have settled the problems with Nepal. Our relations with Bhutan, Maldives and Mauritius have always been good and have improved. Our relations with Bangladesh have also improved. The Tin Bigha [Bangladesh border enclave] issue, which was an irritant in bilateral relations, has been overcome. Now, on the sharing of waters, there have been bilateral talks with more understanding.

About Sri Lanka, we are concerned about the lives of the Tamil people of Indian origin and other civilians there, and concerning them we proposed that camps be set up within Sri Lanka where they could be protected and we could help them. The talks are on and I am confident that other countries will also contribute something toward it. But we will not allow the extremists and militants [preceding word in English] to make Indian soil the center [for their activities]. We want peace—we want it in Sri Lanka as well as in India and we will pursue that policy.

It is unfortunate that, despite having friendly feelings toward Pakistan, our relations with that country have not improved. I do not want to mention again those events on this occasion. You are aware of them and they have already been discussed. But I would like to state two things. We want friendship. If they take one step forward, we will take two. At the same time, there will be not be any compromise on the unity and integrity of the country. If there is any bad intention, the entire country will confront it. [passage omitted]

Tamil Party To Resist Opposition to Government

BK1608053990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, said in Madras yesterday that on the question of implementing the Mandal Commission recommendations [on

job reservations for backward classes], any attempt to dislodge the National Front government at the center will be desisted by the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]. He was speaking at a public meeting to celebrate the Mandal Commission report's implementation.

Four 'Terrorists' Among Seven Killed in Punjab

Kapurthala, Faridkot Incidents

BK1608053590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including four terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents last night. According to an official spokesman, three terrorists were killed (Dhilman) area of Kapurthala District and one in Mehna area of Faridkot District in two separate encounters with the security forces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the killed terrorists.

More Violence in Punjab, Kashmir

BK1608163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, five persons were killed in terrorist activities and eight militants arrested by the security forces in the Kashmir valley during the last 24 hours. While, five Pakistan-trained militants were arrested in Srinagar, one each were apprehended in Kupuwara, Sopor, and Anantnag Districts. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered by security men within the five-kilometer border belt in the valley. Reports about bomb blasts and arson have come in from some places in the valley.

In Punjab, 15 persons were killed in separate incidents last night. They included four terrorists and three policemen. In Amritsar District, terrorists shot dead six persons, including two members of the village defense force and two women in separate incidents. A minor daughter of one of the killed women was also kidnapped by the terrorists. In Ropar District, terrorists gunned down a local youth Congress-I leader and his brother.

Iran

Papers React to Iraqi Initiative 16 Aug

LD1608083790 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—All the four morning Persian and English language dailies Thursday gave an extensive coverage to the Wednesday Iraqi president's acceptance of Iran's terms for ending the Iraq-Iran disputes. Editorials of the papers and their main front page headlines dealt with the Iraqi president's Wednesday offer. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's main headlines read:

"Congratulations on the Great Victory to the Iranian Revolutionary Nation, the Basij Fighters, Followers of the Late Imam, Families of Martyrs, POWS, Those Missing in Action and the Leader"

"Decisive Politico-Military Victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Defending the Revolution and the Country Came With Acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord and Withdrawal of Iraqi Troops"

"Full Text of Saddam's Letter to President of the Islamic Republic of Iran"

Main headlines in the Persian daily ABRAR read:

"Major Political Victory of Iran After 10 Years of War and Confrontation with Iraq, Saddam: All Iranian Demands will be Materialized"

"Supreme National Security Council Reviewed Saddam's Letter"

"Iran Ready to Embrace All Its POWS"

"Iraq is to Release List of Unregistered POWS"

"2,000 Iranian POWS To Arrive Home Friday"

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL major headlines:

"Foreign Minister Velayati: Iraqi Acceptance of 598 a Political Victory for Iran"

TEHRAN TIMES headlines said:

"Velayati Says 'Great Victory'- Iraqi Peace Offer Meets All Iranian Conditions"

"Key Excerpts of Iraq's Peace Proposal to Iran"

The dailies devoting their editorials to Iraq's moves towards Iran called the development a long-awaited victory for Iran's Muslim combatants which has proved the legitimacy of their demands.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that today the relatives of Iranian POWS take pride in witnessing the demonstration worldwide of the legitimacy of Iran's demands which, it said, comes after ten years of patience and steadfastness. It said Iran's Muslim nation are proud especially because as a result of their unfailing resistance they now have won the respect of both friends and enemies.

The commentary referred to the present juncture in the contemporary history of Iran as a day on which "all of the enemies of Iran have betrayed each other only to unveil the fact of the righteous position of Iran and of the oppressed people of the contemporary history." It said victory at such hard times as the Islamic Republic of Iran has had has certainly cost Iran a lot, and that the Iranian nation have liberally paid the cost for it to stand proud before friends and foes alike.

The daily recommends that Iranian POWS who are to be gradually released by the Iraqi Government as of Friday [17 August] onwards be duly glorified by the people of Iran as a group of people who can claim the most credit to Iran's political victory in the wake of a long war.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES expressed optimism over Iraq's acceptance of Iran's terms for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between the two countries, and expressed hope that the Iranian Government will be able to identify national interests in the face of the rapidly changing situation in the Persian Gulf.

"Baghdad Radio's broadcast yesterday of a letter by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to his Iranian counterpart sent a new shock wave across the region. But this time it was not foreboding calamity.

"In a courageous move the Iraqi leader said in his letter that Baghdad accepts all the Iranian proposals for forging a lasting peace between the two countries.

"Husayn's letter clearly stated that he accepts the Algiers Accord signed between Tehran and Baghdad in 1975. It is this accord that determines the internationally recognized borders between the two countries.

"Iraq's acceptance of the 1975-Algiers Accord should be viewed as a move corroborating the position of international accords and laws. And this is what the region needs most at present.

"It took however a long time for Iraq to come up with the right decision. But this new diplomatic victory Iran has gained since yesterday's broadcast of the Iraqi president's letter also reflects the Iraqi positions and the steadfastness of the Iranian officials and their right emphasis on international laws and instruments."

TEHRAN TIMES continued "now in this very sensitive juncture with a lasting peace just round the corner, it is hoped that the responsible officials and policy makers of the nation will adopt a most suitable approach to the current crisis of the region...

"Iran-Iraq conflict and Iraq-Kuwait conflict however, are the two major problems the region now has on its hands. The former, which dragged the region into some eight years of explosive tension-laden years, seems to be finally nearing its end. This is absolutely to the interests of all nations in this part the world. The latter has started early this month and is earnestly hoped that this, too, will soon be settled."

The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, too, lauded the peace move by Saddam Husayn, but referred to the presence of American troops at the Persian Gulf and in Saudi Arabia as a development with possibly catastrophic results to the entirety of the Muslim world.

It said, "In a region again in the grips of a major international crisis, the ending of the Iran-Iraq war, albeit till now still unofficial, can only be greeted with deep satisfaction by the Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

The daily continued, "Judging by U.S. President George Bush's comments today however, not everybody shares the nation's sentiments. The American President took this occasion to remind the world and Iran that Iraq had waged eight years of war against her. A strange statement given the new rapprochement, but highly indicative of just what the Americans have in mind for the region. He naturally failed to outline the leading American political role in fomenting that conflict (Iraq-Iran war), or to mention the U.S. troops actively participated at key stages of the conflict against Iran.

"Let no one be deceived by the American presence and intention in this latest outbreak of Persian Gulf tension. The real issue is not the sovereignty of the al-Sabah's or the Al Sa'ud's but the continued ability of Washington to dictate oil pricing policy in the Middle East. The two above-mentioned families have been stalwart proxies in this game for the past four decades. Clearly the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has upset the apple-cart.

"...On the other hand the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait is not acceptable, nor will a return to past oil policy on the part of reconstituted Kuwait be.

"The Americans must go and her allies should persuade her to do so before she drags the world into turmoil with vastly unpredictable consequences. This process should start before American and British forces begin to commit acts of war on the high seas. When that is accomplished dealing with Iraq can take place in an atmosphere of calm in the community of neighbors.

"Unfortunately...by placing the sacred land of Arabia under the de facto control of American forces he (the Saudi king) bears the ignominy of being responsible for capitulating control of the very heartland of the Islamic world to non-Muslims, the first time this incredibly heavy insult has been visited on Islam since Prophet Muhammad (sawa) [peace be upon him and his scion] some 1,400 years ago..."

Envoy Presents Saddam Husayn Message to President

LD1608110390 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—The message of the Iraqi president concerning his acceptance of all Iran's terms for peace was handed to President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday evening.

The message was initially submitted to Iran's U.N. Ambassador in Geneva Sirus Naseri by his Iraqi counterpart Barzan Takriti. Naseri later delivered the message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

An informed source at the Foreign Ministry told IRNA that the Iranian officials were studying contents of the message.

Turkey's Ozal Phones President on Iraq Proposal

LD1608103790 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Turkish President Turgut Ozal in a telephone conversation with President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday morning was

told that Tehran-Baghdad peace issue was totally independent of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and that Iraq must withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

The Turkish president had called up President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to be briefed on Wednesday Iraqi acceptance of the 1975 accord. [as received] The two sides also exchanged views on the latest developments in the region.

"Peace with Iraq is a different issue and we hold on to our view that Iraq must evacuate (its forces) from the Kuwaiti territory so as to create the necessary conditions for reestablishment of peace and tranquillity," said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He added, "We believe that the problem which has been created in the regiom must be solved by the regional countries in cooperation with one other."

Commentary on Saddam's Peace Moves, 'Opportunities'

LD1608125590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the president of Iraq, in a letter to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Islamic president of Iran, announced his agreement with the 1975 border and good-neighborliness treaty. [passage omitted]

On the basis of the stance announced by the Iraqi Government, Iran's viewpoints have been accepted, and after dispatching a delegation from either side to Tehran or Baghdad, the last exchange of views will take place before signing the necessary documents. If the withdrawal of forces behind international borders and the exchange of prisoners of war take place on schedule, it would mean the end of a decade of tension and insecurity along the two countries' borders. It means the 1975 accord would regain its powers of enforcement, and the two countries' land and water borders would become clear on the basis of the accepted international laws.

The acceptance of the 1975 accord is an emphasis on validity of the border treaties in a sensitive region of the world, where the recognition of and respect for such international agreements is considered to be vital. In addition to this, the stance of the Iraqi Government is, in practice, considered as the turning point from resorting to force as a means of solving the two countries' disputes. [passage omitted]

The end of the all-out war, and a period of neither war, nor peace will now create opportunities for the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq. Such opportunities, under an atmosphere of a just and ever-lasting peace, can serve the interests of the two nations.

'Unofficial' Text of President's Message to Saddam

LD1608140190 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—The following is the unofficial full text translation of the August 8 reply of President Hojjat ol- Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Saddam Husayn of Iraq. Saddam had sent a letter to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on August 3, a day after the Iraqi military occupation of Kuwait.

"In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

"Praise be to God, the Lord of all universe, benediction upon Prophet Muhammad and his holy household.

"His Excellency Mr. Saddam Husayn, the respectable president,

"Your letter dated August 3, 1990 was received. Although the text of the letter has apparently been prepared in order to proceed the peace talks, parts of the context are regrettable.

"Before anything else, I deem it necessary to reiterate once again the will and determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran for materialisation of a just and lasting peace. I hope you have come to the same conclusion. In the aftermath of the acceptance of the Resolution 598, being fully aware of our responsibilities before peace and its consequences, we initiated a sincere move and decided that other than the legitimate and indispensable rights of the Iranian nation, nothing could limit our progress in the path of peace, and did so. Our attitude both in the course of the negotiations held under the supervision of the United Nations secretary general and in reply to your letter and talks which were held in Geneva between my and your representatives, should have clarified the issue for you.

"Accelerating the process of achieving peace and taking practical steps toward implementation of the Resolution 598 instead of resorting to correspondence and lengthy discussions, has been our main area of emphasis in the early stages of the talks between the representatives of the two countries in Geneva and now we believe that progress in the content of negotiations and not in its form, and efforts to clarify our stand vis-a-vis issues which are the key to the gate of peace would bring us close to our objective.

"The objective which will eliminate potential grounds for destroying the present situation or the artificial grounds created by the enemies of Islam, which could be created under the present special circumstances of the world and the region. It is in this way that peace will become available to the two neighbouring countries and forces engaged with each other could be put to the service of vital needs of the two nations and their main responsibilities towards construction, peace and security of the region.

"Taking into consideration the afore-mentioned issues, I deem it necessary to raise the following points concerning the contents of your letters of August 3, July 30 (unsigned), and July 16:

"1 - To meet and hold negotiations at a level higher than what is currently underway in Geneva is acceptable only when we could achieve specific results out of the current

Geneva talks which could lay the basis for the next stages. But, as you know, in Geneva we have made no substantial progress other than further familiarity with each other's views while your and our representatives had been commissioned to hold talks on the essence of the issues. Therefore, as we had notified before, a meeting between the two presidents could be effective only under the condition that important and key issues have been clarified and sorted out. Otherwise, failure of the talks of the two presidents could have more damaging impacts on the trend of peace and would take it out of the reach of the two countries.

"2 - In your letter of July 30, 1990, proposals have made concerning the Arvand River, which, although marks stepping back from your claims in your previous declarations, still it is clear to you that cannot be accepted by us. [sentence as received] Our specific proposal is that peace talks should be based on the 1975 accord because in the absence of any commitment to the previous agreements, especially the agreement which bears your own signature, one cannot be expected to trust on what is being said today.

"3 - A two-month period which has been set as the deadline for withdrawal from the occupied Iranian territories cannot be justified because if this action is based on good-will it can accomplished in a matter of one or two days. However, the United Nations secretary general in his plan had given this a two-week time period, and three months time for the release of POWS."

"4 - It is amazing that by resorting to Arabism, our rightful stand vis-a-vis the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi Army has been criticized while more obvious issues including paving the ground for the extensive presence of foreign forces in the region, disturbing peace and tranquility, creating problems for Muslim people, Islamic responsibility, neighbourliness, and disturbing regional stability and security, conditioning changes in fronts and international undertakings, have all been ignored. How could it be justified that in a letter which begins with the name of Almighty God and ends with the inspring slogan "God is the greatest", contrary to the strong and explicit teachings of Islam and Koran, the racial and ethnic doctrine has superseded the Islamic and ideological principle.

"The clear verses (of the Holy Koran): 'The believers are but brethren' (verse 10-sura hujurat), 'Verily this religion of yours is one religion' (verse 92-sura anbiyaa), and 'O mankind, we created you from a single (pair of) male and a female, and made you nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you. (verse 13-sura hujurat), are sufficient Islamic principles for any Muslim to eclipse his racial, geographical and linguistic tendencies. [punctuation as received] You are better informed than others of the policies of the Kuwaiti Government in the course of the war and their unjust attitude towards the Islamic Revolution of Iran. But, our stands are not connected to individuals but emanate from our principles.

"5 - No doubt, under the condition of peace talks between the two countries, unexpected aggression against a neighbor country without the slightest notice, and accompanied with all its extraordinary impacts and consequences in connection with us, could weaken our trust and create a serious doubt in the motives of the past few months' talks especially that during this period we have not witnessed goodwill measures but rather witnessed insistence on the continuation of the occupation of our homeland and even opposition to a minor issue such as extinguishing the fire at oil wells which has no benefit for you other than wasting the wealth of our Islamic homeland.

"6 - The tone of your last letter does not suit the required atmosphere in the peace talks process. A tone has been employed which had proven inefficient in connection with our Muslim revolutionary people in the past and an improper analysis had been made on the new stands of your former friends and supporters to convince us. Because, you know that we have experienced and passed all these stages in practice and have proved that more than anything else we rely on the faith, resistance and support of the people. We do not attach so much value to the wrath and grace of others to the extent that our daily life, stands and important decisions be placed on them. We are not intending to abuse the status quo, and we seek nothing but our own legitimate rights, something we have emphasised on during all stages of the talks.

"7 - We fully accept the point which your letter put emphasis on —to speed the move towards peace—but what accelerates peace is not to set forth differing proposals and upgrading the talks without any practical progress. Rather we should abide by the internationally recognized agreements between the two countries and do not seek more than our legitimate rights because what had not been achieved in the course of the eight-year war cannot be expected to be materialised in the talks. If we accept this, it would not be necessary to search for anything else than the 1975 treaty to delimit frontiers both on land and in the river. If we do not accept this, it would be better to pass on implementation of the resolution to the United Nations and the Security Council while keeping the Geneva link for exchange of views on common issues."

Peace be on you
[Signed] 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani
[Dated] August 8, 1990

Saddam Proposal Lifts 'Biggest Obstacle' to Peace

LD1608172590 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—A senior commentator said on Thursday that the announcement of the leader of the Iraqi regime on Wednesday had lifted the biggest obstacle in the way of peace with Iran.

Foreign minister's advisor Mohammad Javad Larijani who writes weekly comments for the afternoon daily ETTELA'AT, added that the event will undoubtedly inspire great momentum to the establishment of peace between the two countries.

Saddam Husayn announced on Wednesday [15 August] that he has accepted all Iran's conditions for peace, including the 1975 accord (as the basis of border demarcation with both sides having the right to use the Arvand River or Shatt al-Arab), withdrawal of troops from the occupied territories and release of all POWs within a short period of time.

"This is one of the important events for our nation, for the region and for the entire world," Larijani said.

"The new situation on the one hand indicates that the bloody and heavily destructive aggression against Iran has not borne any fruits, and on the other, the Iranian nation is clearly witnessing the fruit of its martyrs' blood for the cause of stabilizing its national sovereignty, territorial integrity and above all Islamic honor and dignity.

"As mentioned in its official letter, the Iraqi government intends to use a major part of its forces deployed on its eastern border for another widespread confrontation. No doubt this would have an important impact on the disposition of the forces engaged. But will Iraq really engage the forces opposing it over Kuwait? It must be said that its goals and the outcome are important enough to justify any action, but Iraq can expect results to the extent that it is determined? [sentence as received]

"The new situation once again revealed Iran's key role in one of the most important regions of the world. Even one can say those seeking to undermine the position of Islamic Iran have dealt a deadly blow to the security and tranquillity of the region and therefore they should help restore security of the region in order to make good on their past.

"Because, it has become obvious that neither aggression nor huge expeditions in this oil rich region would be able to establish security and calm. So a basic way should be found so that huge Islamic riches would not be plundered and the countries could live in an atmosphere of peace and understanding."

Press Views 'Victory' Over Iraq

LD1608193290 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 16, IRNA—Three afternoon dailies Thursday commented on Iraq's acceptance of Iran's conditions for peace with Baghdad describing the event as a victory for the Islamic Republic.

KEYHAN said the unexpected letter of the head of the Iraqi regime to the Iranian president, regardless of the motivations and circumstances surrounding it, "reveals that truth is lasting and undeniable."

The Persian daily in a front page article titled "War, War and Now Victory" said even the enemies now have no alternative but to "kneel down before the truth of 'defence', 'resistance', 'devotion', 'martyrdom', 'freedom-loving' and 'ideology', and implicitly or explicitly admit the bravery and zeal of the Muslim Iranian nation."

"The great victory achieved after the enemy's confession to our righteousness is undoubtedly a sweet fruit of the fulfillment of the divine obligation, either when we fought for eight years as an (divine) obligation, or when we stopped fighting and accepted peace under the same obligation," it said.

"Undoubtedly if we continue the same policy... we will be able to reach the end of the line successfully, and let other oppressed nations of the world taste sweetness of victory, and liberation from the hegemony of the tyrants.

"Now is the time for all to take a fresh breath and check our belts to make sure they are fastened, and without being overcome with complacency, start a new phase of justice-seeking within the framework which our great late imam has outlined for us and perhaps for the entire world...

"What is vital now is to safeguard the great achievements we have gained over the past decade, and not allow the values of 'the Imam Khomeyni era' be distorted or attacked by corrupt and crawling political and cultural currents. The great leader of the Islamic revolution also stressed this point in a meeting with Imam Khomeyni mourners last June.

"However, the position of the Iranian people and government towards the regional crisis is clear: First of all we condemn aggression including that of Iraq against Kuwait, and secondly we carefully watch U.S. and other Western countries' unprecedented presence in the Persian Gulf, who intend to reinforce their aggressive presence in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

"We will confront their (Western forces) sinister goals in harming the interests of Muslims and the Islamic revolution with all our might."

ETTELA'AT said in a commentary that the Iraqi regime had finally openly accepted the 1975 accord after eight years of war and two years of negotiations "during which it never stopped thinking of getting concessions."

"Although it is too early to make sure of peace but one can say now that victory is the result of resistance and success is the fruit of deeply-rooted tree of steadfastness."

"The late Imam Khomeyni and his faithful aide Ayatollah Khamene'i taught the lesson of resistance to the dear, great people of Iran, the relatives of martyrs, the POWs and those missing in action and particularly to the disabled and the mojahedin.

"The committed, Muslim nation of Iran was taught by the imam and his sincere aides that the steadfastness and resistance can bear fruit and bring victory even in this matrial world."

"It goes without saying that there may be different reasons behind Iraq's recent decision (to accept the 1975 accord). Saddam in his letter to the Iranian president pointed to the fact that he intended to use its military forces possibly for another purpose. But all these realities fall behind the principle of resistance in the order of importance.

"It is true that Iraq is now involved in the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by its own invasion of Kuwait on August 2, but both Saddam and others were well aware that the Islamic Republic would by no means ignore its territorial integrity despite the flexibility it showed towards the U.N. resolution 598.

"Since the first day the Islamic Republic began to defend itself against the Iraqi aggression, it has made nothing but demands that the aggression be stopped, the aggressor return to the internationally recongnized borders and drop its territorial and non-territorial claims. The demand for the punishment of the aggressor and for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime followed by entering the territory of that country were because international circles had refused to formally accept Iran's just demands."

RESALAT said the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers accord by Iraq is "an ultimate and divine victory" for Iran, and "the world is now witnessing that a great nation has put down the aggressor, foiling all its intentions."

The release of the Iranian POWs who tolerated eight years of captivity and homesickness, and their return to the Islamic country is the best gift to be given by God in this holy month (Muharram), it added.

It said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's administration undoubtedly took the most successful initiatives concerning the Islamic Republic's diplomacy since the exchange of the first letters between Iran and Iraq. "Our people are now witnessing the successful results of these initiatives."

Laying stress on the principles and positions of the Islamic republic, including the condemnation of any kind of aggression, condemnation of the U.S. presence in the region, and restoration of security in the Persian Gulf by the regional countries, would certainly add to these achievements.

Iraqi POW's Transferred to Border for Release

LD1708082590 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—The first batch of the Iraqi POWs were transferred from Tehran to the Western borders Friday morning to be handed over to the Iraqi authorities, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi here Friday.

He said that the Iranian measure is to reciprocate the Iraqi move in releasing the Iranian POWs who are expected to arrive in Iran shortly.

Iraqi Troops Begin Withdrawal From Border

LD1708091590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to an important news bulletin that we just received: Iraqi forces have begun their withdrawal from the occupied territories in the border strip of Ilam Province. According to a Central News Unit report, our military commanders, who are observing the beginning of the Iraqi forces' withdrawal along the 425 km joint border with Iraq in the Ilam Province, have reported that since 0500 hours [local time] this morning, some of the Iraqi soldiers have evacuated the Meymak and Kalleh Qandi heights, the Mehran area, and other occupied regions in this province.

The same report indicates that Iraqi forces started extensive activities to withdraw their armored equipment and engineering plants last night.

First Group of POW's Arrives in Qasr-e Shirin

LD1708093890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0925 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a very important message we have just received from Qasr-e Shirin: The first group of released Iranian POW's arrived in the Islamic Republic territory this morning and were welcomed by state officials and the authorities. The representative of the headquarters in charge of welcoming the released POW's in Qasr-e Shirin said that after the released POW's have spent 12 hours in medical quarantine, their names will be announced to compatriots and particularly to their families.

POW Headquarters Issues Second Communique

LD1708100790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The headquarters in charge of the affairs of the released POW's issued its second communique. The communique in part, addressing the ummah of Islam, says: Today your comrades-in-arms return to the rendezvous of love and devotion to bring light to tired hearts. The free warriors are coming to teach us a lesson in resistance and bravery. Their pleasant message once again echoes in the world, which says: Beware of shame.

It is hereby brought to the attention of the public that following the around-the-clock efforts of all responsible officials, the relevant establishments all over the country, are ready to receive the released POW's; and in this connection medical teams have been stationed at the arrival points with all the necessary equipment. The task

of transferring the released dear ones to various provincial capitals and cities will be performed by this headquarters, thanks to the coordination of the governors general. Once again, we call upon the esteemed families of the POW's not to go to the arrival points, so as to enable the relevant organs to perform the task of transferring the released POW's in a manner they deserve.

The headquarters also announced: All the committees in charge of supporting the POW's in various provinces are named the headquarters in charge of affairs of the released POW's from today, and they are responsible for implementing the law of supporting the released POW's, which was passed by the Islamic Majles.

First Nationals Arrive in Shiraz From Kuwait

LD1508144190 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Shiraz (Fars), Aug. 15, IRNA—The first group of Iranians residing in Kuwait, arrived here via Qatar Tuesday night [14 August]. Upon arrival the all-male group disclosed that last Saturday [11 August] they crossed into Saudi Arabia from Iraqi occupied Kuwait in their cars.

"The attitude of Saudi officials was not friendly towards us," they said and "It took us three days to complete exit formalities."

The Iranian ambassador to Doha personally welcomed them at the Qatar border they added, and within a few hours made arrangements for their flight to Shiraz at the embassy's expense

Haydar Haydari, who hails from Banaruyeh district of Larestan, Fars Province, spoke of long queues at grocery shops, bakeries and petrol and gas stations that were open in occupied Kuwait. He said that all government organisations were closed.

"Except for women and Kuwaiti nationals, others freely move about on the streets," added Haydari.

On the Kuwaiti resistance against Iraqi forces, Haydari who worked as a pick-up van driver in Kuwait, said the resistance was neither organized nor had support, and was gradually dying out "because of the ubiquitous presence of Iraqi troops in Kuwait City."

The home-coming Iranians spoke of the impact of Iraqi occupation on Arab public opinion, and said Kuwaitis and Saudis who bankrolled Baghdad are now ruing their folly of standing against the Islamic republic during the eight year war.

"They (Kuwaitis and Saudis) admit they are paying for their oppression towards the Iranian people through their aid to Iraq."

Haydari quoted some of the Kuwaitis as saying "We have awakened now."

Mohammad Taqi Husseini of Kazerun near Shiraz, quoted a Saudi border official as saying "Now we have realized the divine thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, because it was only him who knew (the real nature of) Saddam."

Returnees Describe 'War-Stricken' Kuwait

LD1608144990 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bushehr, Aug. 16, IRNA—The Iraqi occupation force in Kuwait is comparitively young with most soldiers said to be raw recruits below 20 years of age. According to a group of Kuwait-based Iranians which arrived here recently, the Iraq-Kuwait sea borders are being controlled by teenage Iraqis aboard Kuwaiti boats. Shops selling valuable articles including electronic goods as well as foodstuffs warehouses have been plundered, they said. Once affluent Kuwait city wears a desolate look, they reported, with most houses and shops bare and doorless, and suburbs in such a miserable condition as though war-stricken.

Syrian Officials Hold Talks on Gulf Situation

Khaddam Discusses Invasion With Habibi

JN1608132290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran— A round of talks we held today between Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Hasan Habibi, Iran's first vice president. Also taking part were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan, and for Iran, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati and his assitant Sheykh Hasan Sheykholeslam; Mr. Mahmud Hashemi, director of Syria and Lebanon Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Iran's ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari. They discussed latest regional developments with an accent on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and bilateral ties.

IRNA Reports Meeting

LD1608142490 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Vice-President Hasan Habibi and his Syrian counterpart 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam discussed regional issues especially the latest crisis in the Persian Gulf, here today. In the meeting, also attended by foreign ministers of the two countries, Khaddam expressed concern over the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait terming it "a grave issue".

"We have come to Iran in view of our good mutual relations, and within the framework of talks between the two countries, to make necessary coordination against the traps set by the U.S. and Saddam," Khaddam said.

Expressing Iran's readiness for further cooperation, Habibi stated the islamic Republic's clear position, saying "We condemn the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and the U.S. presence in the region."

Foreign Ministers of the two countries will continue talks concerning regional issues until a joint viewpoint is achieved.

Khaddam arrived here Wednesday night.

Delegation Meets President

LD1608171690 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16 IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani received Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' here today.

Khaddam congratulated accomplishment of the Iranian nation's righteous demands, and handed over a message from President Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed Syria's "grave concern" over the current developments in the Persian Gulf particularly after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and said Damascus was ready to cooperate with Iran in taking joint stances against foreign threats in the region.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for further mutual cooperation for establishment of peace and stability in the region especially in the "current sensitive circumstances." Referring to the Amal-Hezbollah fighting in Lebanon the president said clashes between the Muslim groups must come to an end. He called for the mobilization of all Islamic forces against their enemies particularly the usurper Zionists, and urged further Tehran-Damascus cooperation for the settlement of the Lebanese issues.

Khaddam arrived here Tuesday night.

SANA Reports Meeting

JN1608180690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, 16 Aug (SANA)—Iranian President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received this afternoon Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hasan Habibi, Iran's first vice president; Dr. 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister; Ahmad al-Hasan, Syrian ambaassador to Iran; and Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

Khaddam conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who gave Khaddam a message in reply to the president.

The meeting focused on the developments in the region following the Irai invasion of Kuwait and the complications created by this invasion, which threatens the security and stability of the region.

There was agreement in viewpoints as regards the assessment of this occurrence and the position toward it. There was also agreement in viewpoints on the need for a comprehensive, unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The two sides also discussed the means to establish security and stability in the region, the latest developments in Lebanon, and a number of issues of mutual concern.

The two sides emphasized the effectiveness of the strategic relations between Iran and Syria, and the need to bolster and enhance them in all fields.

Earlier, the Syrian delegation paid a visit to the tomb of late Imam Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, where the vice president laid a wreath.

Khaddam Says Talks 'Very Positive,' Departs

LD1708102990 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Syrian First Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left here for Damascus today and termed his talks with Iranian officials as very positive. In an interview with IRNA before departure, Khaddam said agreement had been reached on the issues discussed during his talks with President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Vice-President Hasan Habibi and Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati.

"In our meetings with the Iranian officials we stressed the need for withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return to power of the legal government," he said adding that otherwise the region would be at stake.

"Iran and Syria believe that they should adopt a joint strategy to promote their goals," he added.

"Cooperation of the regional countries with the Islamic Republic was also among subjects we discussed in Tehran," he said.

Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati who was at the airport to see off the Syrian delegation, said "The visit was very sensitive and important at this juncture." (Vice-President Habibi is now in western Iran to supervise exchange of the POWs between Iran and Iraq).

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a message from his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad on Thursday [16 August] and held relatively lengthy discussions with the Syrian delegation, Velayati said. He also predicted "a more positive and constructive" prospect in future Tehran-Damascus ties. He expressed hope that more consultations would be held with ranking Syrian officials so that closer stands could be taken.

Khaddam arrived here Wednesday [15 August] heading a ranking delegation including Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

*Commentary Views Kuwait's Territorial Integrity

90AS0301C Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The crisis in Iraq-Kuwait relations has not seen its ebb yet. Apparently Shazli Kalibi, Arab League's secretary general is trying to prevent the aggravation of the

situation between the two capitals. Some other Arab leaders too are at work to that end. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd is also reported to have talked to Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders on the phone urging them to settle their problem through peaceful means.

The Iraqi-Kuwait problem is a two-pronged one. At one point President Saddam Hussein has accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of having caused a glut in the oil market by producing over and beyond their assigned OPEC quotas. He has promised to take practical steps to stop this. From this angle Iran can, to some extent, support the Iraqi stance. As Tehran finds it a fairly good idea to punish those who violate OPEC quotas. Violation of quotas has indeed hurt OPEC and consequently all the members as it has pulled down the oil price substantially in recent months.

Petro-dollars are indeed the very lifeblood in the economic veins of nations depending on oil revenues. In fact measures to cause a crash in the oil prices are tantamount to moves against the concerned countries' national security. Besides, all the admonitions from other members to violating governments to keep to their quota ceilings have so far fallen on deaf ears. Practical means of punishment against quota violators seems a necessity.

But Iraq has also accused Kuwait of violating Iraqi territory and stealing Iraqi oil. According to Baghdad Iraqi oil stashed away by Kuwait since 1980 amounts to 2.4 billion dollars.

The Iraqi claim to this end does not seem to be logical and truthful. The claim has its roots in Iraq's long-held territorial ambitions against Kuwait as well as in Baghdad leaders' military political aspirations.

The Iraqi challenge to Kuwait also betrays a certain degree of ingratitude as Kuwait made the most voluminous economic contribution to Iraq's war budget in the course of the latter's eight year imposed war with Iran.

Iran however dismisses the Iraqi territorial ambitions against Kuwait. Regardless of all the hostile moves by Kuwait during the war, Iran respects the Kuwaiti territorial integrity and believes internationally-recognized borders should be honored.

From a general perspective however all nations should try to settle their problems only at the negotiating table and never should they speak from the barrel of a gun. Aggression and bullying has no place in our age.

*Commentary Against Amal-Hizbollah Infighting

90AS0301D Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Renewed battles between Amal and Hizbollah forces in Iqlim Al-Toufah, southern Lebanon, over the past few days have been among the two Shiite groups' bloodiest wars even by the Lebanese standards.

The raging battle has taken on new dimensions with the deployment of forces loyal to Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the area.

Although not the first of armed confrontations between Amal and Hizbollah, the present war is certainly among the most obnoxious and ominous of the very regrettable Shiite infightings. The Palestinian forces' involvement and their siding with the Amal has been received with much surprise among observers.

Unfortunately countries that carry weight with these two groups have so far failed to step in with practical measures to stop the battle. All they have done so far is issuing verbal condemnations. Such course of action has been repeatedly followed by these countries in the past too.

Among countries having influence over Lebanese developments Iran and Syria top the list. But even these two have usually moved in to stop the fighting with some delay.

This late reaction to the critical situation by influential countries has only aggravated the crisis taking the death toll higher. And the higher the casualties, the more raging the two fighting groups in their thirst for revenge.

Syria however has greater responsibility to prevent such regrettable Moslem infightings. Given its military presence and powerful intelligence outfits in Lebanon Syria seems to be in a position to even prevent such battles before they occur.

Amal and Hizbollah however should know quite well that the ominous fruit of their confrontations are reaped only by the Zionist regime. While battle rages among Moslems Israel feels more secured within the borders of its usurped territory.

These infightings are absolutely stripped of any religio-political justification and should come to a halt at once.

The opportunist forces of Arafat too are only trying to fish in troubled water, fan the flames of the war and strengthen their own foothold in south Lebanon.

Leaders of Islamic and nationalist Lebanese groups should be aware that special conditions of the region, given the new world developments, necessitates an ever-increasing cooperation and unity among all Lebanese factions. Before such a unity is achieved they are not likely to achieve their objectives.

Nepal & Bhutan

Former Premier Criticizes Communist Parties

BK1708013190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1953 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 16 (AFP)—A former Nepalese prime minister on Thursday [16 Aug] sharply criticized the country's communist parties and repeated his party's call for a constitutional monarchy. Tanka Prasad Acharya, now president of the Nepal Praja Parishad

party or people's council, said a "constitutional monarchy is the need of the day and Nepal Praja Parishad was strongly demanding it."

Saying the current interim government had been constituted as a result of an agreement between King Birendra and the leaders of the people's movement, Mr. Acharya said "the king has given the interim government all the legislative and executive powers." A two-month popular movement this spring culminated in the abolition of a 30-year-old system that banned all political parties.

Mr. Acharya accused the communist parties of having carried out "irresponsible and undemocratic activities against the king and the Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC) by violating the oath of secrecy and then asking for forgiveness." He was referring to Nepal Communist Party (fourth convention) leader Nirmal Lama, his party's representative at the CRC, who apologized last Thursday for revealing CRC secrets to his party and the local press.

Mr. Acharya also expressed surprise over the Nepalese communists' ambition to introduce communism in Nepal at a time when communism is collapsing in the Soviet Union and Europe. He voiced concern about the kind of constitution the CRC, which he said was also comprised of those advocating a republic and a dictatorship of the proletariat, was drafting for the people.

"Our party ... Had suggested to CRC that the sovereignty should be vested in the people. It is however doubtful whether the sovereign power can be fully exercised even if it is vested in the people," he said. "There is no need for pressurizing the king to transfer the sovereignty to the people if a constitution that guarantees all-round national progress and prosperity could be framed after serious consideration of the democratic process in the country," he said.

Pakistan

No Date Set For Troop Dispatch to Saudi Arabia

BK1608112690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Senate today began discussion on a motion regarding the dissolution of assemblies by the president on the 6th of this month. A number of privilege and adjournment have been moved by members on the subject and these are all clubbed together under the relevant rule to facilitate discussion. [sentence as heard] Two members took part in the discussion.

The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, gave a statement about certain matters of foreign affairs in a closed-door session in the house. Later, talking to newsmen, the foreign minister said the government was deeply concerned about the safety of Pakistanis stranded in Kuwait. Every effort is being made to ensure their safety and security. The government has established contacts with other countries.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the Senate has supported the decision of the government to send troops to Saudi Arabia for Saudi Arabian defense of the holy places. No date has yet been fixed for the dispatch, place, and their actual number.

Army Chief General Beg Denounces Iraq's Saddam

BK1608152290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—Pakistan's army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, rapped Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in remarks published here Thursday and defended his country's decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia. Two newspapers quoted Gen. Beg as saying he hoped that saner and peace-loving elements in Iraq would soon remove Mr. Husayn and save their country from being strangled by international economic sanctions.

It marked the first open criticism of the Iraqi leader by a senior Pakistani official since Baghdad's August 2 invasion of Kuwait. The Pakistani dailies, DAWN and FRONTIER POST, said the general made the observations while talking to reporters on Tuesday at a government-hosted reception on the country's 44th independence anniversary.

The reports, delayed due to a Wednesday press holiday, quoted Gen. Beg as saying that the Iraqi leader was "behaving like a monarch." He recalled that Mr. Husayn was in Riyadh only a day before the attack on Kuwait, assuring the Saudis and visiting holy places. Within two hours of his return, the Iraqi president marched into Kuwait, Gen. Beg said, adding "I wonder what makes him tick."

He said Pakistan subscribed to the principle of non-aggression, especially by a bigger country against its neighbours. But he added: "When you look the other way when universal principles are being violated, you only encourage elements like Saddam Husayn."

The Pakistan Government decided on Monday to join Islamic Armed Forces contingents in Saudi Arabia to defend holy sites. The Iraqi ambassador to Pakistan, Ismail Hamoodi Husayn, called on Islamabad Thursday to take a neutral stand in the Gulf crisis. In a statement released by the Iraqi Embassy, he termed as "strange" the remarks of Gen. Beg about President Husayn.

The ambassador said Iraq had given guarantees that it had no intention to attack Saudi Arabia and it expected that Pakistan would strongly oppose the "occupation" of sacred places by U.S. forces. Gen. Beg rejected the possibility of a war breaking out in the Gulf over the Kuwait crisis, arguing that the U.S. would not like the balance of power to be disturbed.

He said if a war broke out the Iraqi military "would be destroyed which would upset the balance of power in

favour of Israel." America was committed to maintaining a military balance between confronting parties in all regions of the world, the general said.

Asked if he foresaw a permanent stationing of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, Gen. Beg pointed to the "already hostile" public reaction in the Middle East and said the hint was broad enough for the U.S. to take heed. He said the dispatch of troops to Saudi Arabia would not in any way impair Pakistan's own security.

"Actually, our security position will be reinforced because India would not dare attack us while we are engaged in international peace effort," he added. Some Pakistani politicians and analysts have objected to Islamabad's decision to join the American-led international force in the oil-rich kingdom.

"We oppose this move which is designed to serve the interests of the United States," Wali Khan, a left-wing political leader, said Thursday. Mr. Khan, the chief of the Awami National Party, demanded a pullout of the U.S. troops.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan briefed members of the senate here Thursday on the Gulf situation. He later told reporters that the senators endorsed sending troops to Saudi Arabia to defend the holy sites. He said the government was "deeply concerned" about the safety of Pakistanis stranded in Kuwait, but no evacuation plan was ready as yet. About 90,000 Pakistani workers were in Kuwait when Iraqi forces occupied the city state. [as received]

Discusses Crisis, 'Sindh Issue'

BK1608103990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Aug 90 pp 8, 10

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 15—The Chief of the Army Staff [COAS] General Mirza Aslam Beg has categorically said that the Armed Forces have no political designs.

Talking to newsmen at the reception hosted by Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi on the eve of Pakistan Day at State Guest House, Rawalpindi yesterday, General Beg said "we are duty bound to defend country's solidarity and integrity against any threat and we are fully prepared to cope with any challenge from Karachi to Siachen Glacier".

Asked about the withdrawal of army from Sindh, he said the army will, Inshallah, be withdrawn within a couple of weeks because political dialogue between all the forces including Jeay Sindh [Sindhi nationalist movement] has been initiated to solve the Sindh issue amicably which is political in nature. He said, the thing which matters is sincerity and the people of Sindh are convinced that dialogue has been initiated in all sincerity to solve the problem.

The army, he said, had requested delegation of powers under Article 245 of the constitution only to pave the way for political dialogue.

Asked what would be the attitude of centrifugal forces towards initiation of dialogue, he said, "all are patriotic people, what is needed is realistation and reformation".

Asked whether in his opinion elections would be held on Oct 24, General Beg said elections ought to be held on schedule and added that if it were in his jurisdiction he would have held polls after every six months to purge society and strengthen the democratic system in the country.

He said: "The Armed Forces are neither opposed to nor afraid of any political party or political personality. Therefore, whomever comes to power we will welcome him. However, we will never compromise on principles".

Asked whether Armed Forces will assist the government in holding elections, he said if ordered we will Inshallah ensure holding of elections in a more peaceful manner than in 1988.

To a question whether the dissolution of assembly was a constitutional act, the COAS said the president's integrity was above board. He is a seasoned person and the dissolution of assembly was an appropriate action in accordance with the constitution."

He said the assemblies were dissolved in 1988 as well as on August 6, 1990 because none of the rulers were prepared to change himself in accordance with objective national interests. He said politicians after taking the reins of the country should not be inflated and should analyse and assess the situation with open eyes as well as open and positive mind to rectify the mistakes and reach positive agreements. What we want from politicians is that they should be ready to accept the realities, realise their mistakes and correct their attitude before it is too late.

About accountability and mode of elections, General Beg said the president and the prime minister were the proper persons for asking this question.

When his attention was drawn towards the accusation levelled by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that Military Intelligence paved way for the dissolution of the National Assembly, General Beg said "if one does not know the nature and working of ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] as well as Military Intelligence then what can I say. "However, let me make it clear that Military Intelligence works under one command," and added that if the Military Intelligence is not under his control then he has no right to remain in uniform". [quote marks as received]

He said Pakistan has five lakh [500,000] soldiers in its Armed Forces and can not be weakened by sending 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia to protect Harmain Sharifain. "We can call the reservists and raise an army of another seven lakh [700,000] soldiers within one week", he said.

About the concentration of Indian troops on international borders, he said India is still overridden by the fear of Zarb-i-Momin, [Pakistani military exercise of November-December 1989] adding "I did not foresee the effect of Zarb-i-Momin to that extent. However, I may clarify that the concentration of Indian troops on our borders is no threat for us."

Asked whether the Gulf crisis has caused any weakness for Pakistan, General Beg said "not at all. We must depend upon Divine Assistance and our own resources and capabilities. It is a blessing that we, by the grace of Almighty, are strong."

Presence of U.S. Troops in Gulf Condemned

BK1108111190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Aug 90 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 10—Agha Murtaza Pooya, Amir Hizb-i Jehd and, Secretary Information, IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], in a statement released here Friday has condemned the presence of US combat troops in Saudi Arabia.

He said Pakistan and other OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] countries should lodge strong protest and give a clear call for the removal of US-European military presence from the Persian Gulf. The people of the Gulf are quite capable of looking after their rights and interests and do not require god-fathers.

It is US-European presence in the Gulf that has compounded the miseries of the people and allowed their puppet dictators—rulers to ravage the wealth and honour of the Ummah [Islamic community].

Agha Murtaza Pooya said that the US with its tyrannical track record against the Muslim—Third World and its own recent Kuwait-like invasions against Libya, Grenada and Panama has itself become the worst international gangster.

He said the note of caution and condemnation expressed by the UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar, against the US interventionist designs is the most timely and must be welcomed by the people of the region. Agha Pooya maintained that the US should be punished for crimes committed by Saddam Husayn as he is a product of the CIA.

The US threats and condemnations against Saddam are hollow, hypocrytical; hyped up to suit US design to occupy the Gulf oil wells and destroy the economies of Japan and Germany which are emerging as alternate pillars of strength to the Muslim—Third World, he said. However, Agha Pooya said, as long as Zionist occupation of Palestine continues with full US support, her attempts to vacate and punish aggression elsewhere will lack a moral ring.

He called upon the Government of Pakistan to avoid falling into any US-sponsored trap to protect Saudi Arabia. Those who helped Saddam destroy Muslim peoples of Iran and Afghanistan must pay for their sins.

The next cruel card to be played by the US is to get the Zionist entity recognized by the Arab governments and then US-Zionist will protect the Haramain [Muslim Holy Shrines in Saudi Arabia] against another Arab bully. He said in 1967 Nasir was battered amidst a deafening Arab silence, now, it will be Saddam.

Agha Murtaza Pooya also called upon those countries whose hands were not stained with the Muslim blood or being held in unity with the Zionist to make concerted efforts to rid the region of US-European presence. Otherwise, he warned, India-Iraq-Israel triaxis will take over the Ummah's resources. Pakistan, Algeria, Libya, Iran and Turkey can play a major role in this regard.

Saddam deserved to be punished for crimes against the Ummah, let the Ummah punish him, the US lacks the moral credentials to punish any gangster.

In any case, Agha Pooya maintained that the US will make all the noises but will flinch from carrying out any surgical strikes, because Saddam holds two cards, taking of the 60,000 odd American in the region as hostages, use of chemical weapons against them and the two million Egyptians in Iraq.

Zero hour ticks away and the fragile crystal constellation might get destroyed in trying to be saved.

Pakistan must go on red alert as India is bound to seek advantage our of the already collapsed Gulf situation.

French Envoy Meets Ishaq Khan, Discusses Gulf

BK1608162490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The special envoy of French President Mitterrand (name indistinct) called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and apprised him of the French stand on the situation in the Gulf. The special envoy told the president that France opposes the Iraqi offensive and annexation of Kuwait and that France has strongly condemned Iraq for such acts.

The president said Pakistan holds the same stand as France on the Gulf issue, and that the Iraqi offensive on Kuwait is against recognized norms and codes of international relations.

Jatoi Reaffirms Pledge To Hold Polls on Schedule

BK1608115990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has reaffirmed his government's pledge to hold elections on due date. He was addressing a big crowd of people, who had gathered at his residence in [word indistinct] District Naushahro Firoz this afternoon. He called upon the people to exercise their right of franchise according to their conscience and not to be deceived by mere

slogans. He advised them to elect only such people who could serve them with devotion and dedication. The prime minister reiterated that every effort would be made to root out corruption from the society. In this regard, a special cell has been set up to investigate cases of corruption. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said restoration of peace and rule of law was also a high priority of his government. All possible efforts would be made to insure lasting peace in Sindh.

Visits Urdu Group Chairman

BK1708010390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1835 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Karachi, Aug 16 (AFP)—The Mohajir Qaumi Movement representing Urdu-speaking settlers from India is examining an offer to join Pakistan's caretaker cabinet, the MQM chairman said here Thursday. MQM Chairman Azim Tariq made the announcement after the caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, visited him to offer condolences on the death of his mother.

"We discussed the country's overall situation and the impact of the dissolution of the government," Mr. Tariq said. He said Mr. Jatoi also offered to examine the question of releasing MQM activists, about 500 of whom were detained by the government of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The MQM and Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have clashed violently in Pakistan's southern Sindh province. The MQM had supported the deposed prime minister when she was nominated for the high office in December 1988 but they parted ways in October last year.

MQM later joined the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance against Ms. Bhutto. Mr. Tariq also said that Mr. Jatoi spoke by telephone with MQM leader Altaf Hussain, now in London for treatement of a kidney ailment, about the prevailing situation in the country where elections are scheduled for October 24. He said Mr. Hussain would return to Pakistan on August 23.

Government Reappoints Atomic Commission Chief

BK1308143790 Lahore THE NATION in English 13 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Mr. Munir Ahmad Khan, has been reappointed as Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], says a gazette notification issued by the government of Pakistan.

Mr. Munir Ahmad Khan's term as Chairman was due for renewal in March this year when he was asked by the government to continue in office.

The notification further says that during the renewed tenure Mr. Munir Ahmad Khan will be entitled to the privileges of a Minister of State. Previously the Chairman PAEC had the status of Secretary to the Federal Government.

Sri Lanka

Envoy To Verify Safety of Citizens in Gulf

BK1608141090 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Government has assured the families of Sri Lankans working in Kuwait and other foreign countries in the region that every effort will be made to ensure their safety and security. The president has directed minister for labor and vocational training, Mr. G.M. Premachandra, to proceed to several Middle East countries. The purpose of the visit is to hold consultations with the governments concerned as well as to conduct discussions with the representatives of the South Asian nations based in the necessary measures to safeguard interests of our nationals.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been in constant touch with Sri Lankan missions in Kuwait through their embassies in Riyadh as well as in Baghdad and other capitals in the region (?on measures) to safeguard the interest of Sri Lankans. The ministry has also been in touch with the Iraqi Government through the Sri Lankan embassy in Baghdad and through the Iraqi ambassador in Colombo. The Iraqi Government, according to a communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has assured that the Sri Lankan nationals will be protected.

The communique further adds that because the export of tea accounts for the major portion of our foreign exchange earnings, any stoppage of tea exports to Iraq will cause a considerable drop in our export earning. This would create an acute economic problem to Sri Lanka at this particular time when she has to contend with the terrorist threat in the north and the east of island. The government has accordingly instructed our permanent representative at the UN to approach the secretary general and the Security Council in consultations with other developing countries similarly affected to work out a suitable solution.

Minister Wijeratne Sounds Plea for 'Normalcy'

BK1608122490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1045 GMT 16 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan Government is making all necessary efforts to bring the situation in the North and East to normalcy and provide protection to all communities, said the minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, at today's cabinet news briefing.

He said that government was doing its utmost to locate and protect villages of all communities—Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

As much as Tamil terrorists who attacked Muslim villages were being hunted by security forces, Muslims who attacked Tamil villages too would also be treated as terrorists.

Mr. Wijeratne said the Sri Lankan Government will not fail in its duty to protect the lives of innocent men, women and children, irrespective of their community.

He said there were moves by the terrorists to dissipate the energies of the Armed Forces in the Eastern Province, but the Armed Forces were well aware of this and were going ahead with their forward plans which could not be disclosed.

General Cyril Ranatunge, secretary in Ministry of Defense, said the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was a tremendously weakened force with deep logistical problems of transport, weapons and ammunition. A number of terrorists had surrendered including some with weapons, he said.

Giving details of the casualties, Gen. Ranatunge said that since fighting began on June 11, 1,001 LTTE terrorists had been accounted for as dead and 1700 had been wounded.

He also said that 682 civilians caught in the crossfire had been killed in the gunbattles between security forces and the LTTE.

Gen. Ranatunge in reply to a question said that the hospital in Manipay had not been bombed. Only a parapet wall had been damaged.

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne said that aid from India to set up and maintain refugee camps in Sri Lanka was welcome. This will be chanelled through the External Resources Division of the Ministry of Finance.

Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's cabinet briefing were the minister of industries and scientific research, Ranil Wickremasinghe; the presidential advisor on international relations, Bradman Weerakoon; secretary in Ministry of Defense, Gen. Cyril Ranatunge; and secretary to the minister of state for defence, Air Chief Marshal, Walter Fernando.

Task Force Attacks LTTE 'Terrorist Hideouts'

BK1108154490 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] During the last 24 hours ending 1200 noon today, the Special Task Force—STF—conducting operations from the Sangamankanda and Komari camps in the Amparai District, attacked LTTE terrorist hideouts in the Sawarikulam area. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists hastily retreated from their hideout on arrival of the Special Task Force. The Special Task Force recovered ammunition over 200 grenades, 600 barrel mortar shells, fire extinguishers, magazines, gas canisters, and uniforms. The security columns were engaged in the clearing and maintaining the route from Piyangala to Mangla Oya and from Malwatte to Sammanturai in the Amparai District while providing security to the villages in this area. In the Trincomalee District, the security forces ambushed a group of LTTE terrorists in the Palampattaru area. Eight LTTE terrorists are reported killed and the security forces, searching, recovered a large number of antipersonnel mines [words indistinct].

The security forces also cleared the villages of Akkanur and Pallikudiruppu [words indistinct] on the south of Muttur. A large quantity of antipersonnel mines have been recovered. At Theranur, one LTTE terrorist surrendered to the police station with his AK-81 rifle, four magazines with the ammunition and two hand grenades.

By noon today, the donations to the national defense fund exceeded the 125 million rupees mark.

Reportage Reviews 14 August Fighting

Mannar District

BK1508120590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] A foot patrol of the security forces advancing in the area of the fifth mile post near Mantai Junction of the Mannar District confronted a large group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists yesterday. In the ensuing gun battle, one officer and nine soldiers were injured. One soldier succumbed to his injuries at the Anuradhapura Hospital. It is reported that the bodies of 16 LTTE terrorists were located. The security forces recovered a few T-56 rifles, a large number of grenades and documents.

A communique of the Information Department said that in the Amparai District, a small gang of LTTE terrorists attempted to attack the grand mosque at (Asiadi) Junction in Akkaraipattu at about 2000 on Monday [13 August]. Most of the Muslims who had come for prayers had left the mosque by this time. The Muslim home guards supported by the special task force who rushed to the scene killed three LTTE terrorists. In these incidents, one Muslim was killed and two others were injured.

The LTTE terrorists attempted to attack the (Tawalakadai) police post. But it was repulsed. The fleeing terrorists killed six Muslims belonging to one family. Security forces killed five LTTE terrorists in an ambush.

The security forces carried out clearing operations in the (Arabpatti) area in Batticaloa District. One LTTE terrorist was killed and grenades, claymore and antipersonnel mines, electric wire and detonators have been recovered.

Other Areas

BK1508162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 11 soldiers and six LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were killed in continuing clashes between security forces and the LTTE in northeastern provinces during the last 24 hours. Official sources said in Colombo that 10 soldiers were killed and two injured when an army patrol was ambushed by LTTE men at Pulmoddai, north of Trincomalee, this morning. In Talaimannar, (?six) LTTE militants were killed when a Sri Lankan naval craft destroyed a boat.